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ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COMMISSION FOR ASIA AND THE PACIFIC

ANNUAL REPORT
25 April 1996-30 April 1997

ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL
OFFICIAL RECORDS, 1997

SUPPLEMENT No. 18

UNITED NATIONS

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NOTE

Symbols of United Nations documents are composed of capital letters combined with figures. Mention of such a symbol indicates a reference to a United Nations document.

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ABBREVIATIONS

ACC	Administrative Committee on Coordination
ACHR	Asian Coalition for Housing Rights
ACPR	Advisory Committee of Permanent Representatives and Other Representatives Designated by Members of the Commission
ACU	Asian Clearing Union
ADB	Asian Development Bank
AIDA	Asia Infrastructure Development Alliance
AIDS	acquired immune deficiency syndrome
ALTID	Asian land transport infrastructure development
APCTT	Asian and Pacific Centre for Transfer of Technology
APDC	Asian and Pacific Development Centre
APEC	Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation
APT	Asia-Pacific Telecommunity
ARC	Asian Reinsurance Corporation
ASEAN	Association of South East Asian Nations
ASPAT	Asia-Pacific International Trade Fair
CCOP	Coordinating Committee for Coastal and Offshore Geoscience Programmes in East and Southeast Asia
CGPRT Centre	Regional Coordination Centre for Research and Development of Coarse Grains, Pulses, Roots and Tuber Crops in the Humid Tropics of Asia and the Pacific
CIS	Commonwealth of Independent States
CITYNET	Regional Network of Local Authorities for the Management of Human Settlements
EBIS/Popfile	ESCAP Bibliographic Information System/Population File
ECDC	economic cooperation among developing countries
ECE	Economic Commission for Europe
ECO	Economic Cooperation Organization
EDI	electronic data interchange
EDIFACT	Rules for Electronic Data Interchange for Administration, Commerce and Transport
ESCAP/POC	ESCAP Pacific Operations Centre
ESIS	ESCAP Statistical Information System
EU	European Union
FADINAP	ESCAP/FAO/UNIDO Fertilizer Advisory, Development and Information Network for Asia and the Pacific
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations
FDI	foreign direct investment
GEF	Global Environment Facility
GIS	geographic information systems
HIV	human immunodeficiency virus
HRD	human resources development
ICAO	International Civil Aviation Organization
IFA	International Fertilizer Industry Association
ILO	International Labour Organization

ABBREVIATIONS (*continued*)

IMO	International Maritime Organization
IOMAC	Indian Ocean Marine Affairs Cooperation
IRCA	International Railway Congress Association
IRU	International Road Transport Union
ISO	International Organization for Standardization
ITC	International Trade Centre UNCTAD/WTO
ITU	International Telecommunication Union
IULA	International Union of Local Authorities
MRC	Mekong River Commission
NGOs	non-governmental organizations
OSShD	Organization of Railways Cooperation
PATA	Pacific Asia Travel Association
POPIN	Population Information Network
RESAP	Regional Space Applications Programme for Sustainable Development
RICAP	Regional Inter-agency Committee for Asia and the Pacific
RNAM	Regional Network for Agricultural Machinery
SAARC	South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation
SIAP	Statistical Institute for Asia and the Pacific
SNA	System of National Accounts
SOPAC	South Pacific Applied Geoscience Commission
SPC	South Pacific Commission
SPREP	South Pacific Regional Environment Programme
TCDC	technical cooperation among developing countries
TCSP	Tourism Council of the South Pacific
TNCs	transnational corporations
TRISHNET	Network of Training, Research and Information Institutes on Human Settlements
UNCTAD	United Nations Conference on Trade and Development
UNDCP	United Nations International Drug Control Programme
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
UNEP	United Nations Environment Programme
UNESCO	United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization
UNFPA	United Nations Population Fund
UNICEF	United Nations Children's Fund
UNIDO	United Nations Industrial Development Organization
UNIFEM	United Nations Development Fund for Women
UNU	United Nations University
UPU	Universal Postal Union
WHO	World Health Organization
WINAP	Women's Information Network for Asia and the Pacific
WMO	World Meteorological Organization
WTO	World Trade Organization

Introduction

1. The annual report of the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific, which covers the period 25 April 1996 to 30 April 1997, was adopted unanimously by the Commission at the 11th meeting of its fifty-third session on 30 April 1997.

Chapter I

ISSUES CALLING FOR ACTION BY THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL OR BROUGHT TO ITS ATTENTION

A. Issues calling for action by the Economic and Social Council

53/1. Restructuring the conference structure of the Commission

B. Resolutions brought to the attention of the Economic and Social Council

53/2. Implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action for the advancement of women

53/3. Framework for the North-East Asian Subregional Programme of Environmental Cooperation

53/4. Elimination of sexual abuse and sexual exploitation of children and youth in Asia and the Pacific

Chapter II

WORK OF THE COMMISSION SINCE THE FIFTY-SECOND SESSION

A. Activities of subsidiary bodies

2. During the period under review, the following subsidiary bodies convened meetings: Committee for Regional Economic Cooperation, Committee on Environment and Sustainable Development, Committee on Poverty Alleviation through Economic Growth and Social Development, Committee on Statistics, Special Body on Least Developed and Landlocked Developing Countries and Special Body on Pacific Island Developing Countries. The Ministerial Conference on Infrastructure was convened. The dates, bureaux and document symbols of the reports of the meetings are given in annex III to the present report. The reports of those bodies to the Commission reflect the discussions held, the agreements reached and the decisions taken by them.

B. Other activities

3. Lists of publications issued, meetings held and advisory services provided in the calendar year 1996, under the programme of work, 1996-1997 of the Commission, are given in annex V to the present report. To the extent possible, the technical cooperation among developing countries modality was applied in these activities, as reported in document E/ESCAP/1069.

4. The secretariat maintained close and regular liaison with United Nations Headquarters and cooperated with the departments concerned, as well as with the secretariats of the other regional commissions on projects of common interest.

C. Relations with other United Nations programmes

5. The cooperation of the Commission with specialized United Nations agencies and other international organizations, particularly through the Regional Inter-agency Committee for Asia and the Pacific, is described in document E/ESCAP/1070.

Chapter III

FIFTY-THIRD SESSION OF THE COMMISSION

A. Attendance and organization of work

6. The fifty-third session of the Commission was held at the United Nations Conference Centre, Bangkok, from 23 to 30 April 1997.

7. The session was attended by representatives of the following members and associate members: Armenia, Australia, Azerbaijan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, Brunei Darussalam, Cambodia, China, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Fiji, France, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Japan, Kazakstan, Kiribati, Kyrgyzstan, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Malaysia, Marshall Islands, Mongolia, Myanmar, Nauru, Nepal, Netherlands, New Zealand, Pakistan, Palau, Papua New Guinea, Philippines, Republic of Korea, Russian Federation, Samoa, Singapore, Solomon Islands, Sri Lanka, Thailand, Turkey, Tuvalu, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America, Uzbekistan, Vanuatu, Viet Nam, Hong Kong, Macau, New Caledonia, Niue and Northern Mariana Islands.

8. By virtue of rule 3 of the Commission's rules of procedure, representatives of Austria, Chile, Czech Republic, Germany, Hungary, Israel, Morocco, Peru, Romania and South Africa attended. A representative of Switzerland attended under Economic and Social Council resolution 860 (XXXII). A representative of the Holy See attended under Council decision 244 (LXIII).

9. The session was attended by officials of the United Nations Secretariat representing the Economic Commission for Europe and the Regional Commissions New York Office.

10. Representatives of the following United Nations bodies attended: United Nations Children's Fund, United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, United Nations Development Fund for Women, United Nations Development Programme, United Nations Environment Programme, United Nations Population Fund, World Food Programme, United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat), Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, United Nations International Drug Control Programme and the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS.

11. Representatives of the following specialized agencies were present in a consultative capacity: International Labour Organization, Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, International Civil Aviation Organization, World Health Organization, World Bank, Universal Postal Union, International Telecommunication Union, World Meteorological Organization, International Maritime Organization and United Nations Industrial Development Organization.

12. The following intergovernmental organizations attended as observers: Asian Clearing Union, Asian Development Bank, Asian and Pacific Development Centre, Asian-Pacific Postal Union, Asia-Pacific Telecommunity, Asian Reinsurance Corporation, Association of Natural Rubber Producing Countries, Centre for Integrated Rural Development for Asia and the Pacific, Colombo Plan Bureau, Coordinating Committee for Coastal and Offshore Geoscience Programmes in East and Southeast Asia, European Commission, Forum Secretariat, International Centre for Integrated Mountain Development, International Organization for Migration, International Pepper Community, Mekong River Commission, South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation, Typhoon Committee and WMO/ESCAP Panel on Tropical Cyclones.

13. Observers were present from the following non-governmental organizations in general consultative status: Asian Forum of Parliamentarians on Population and Development, International Confederation of Free Trade Unions, International Council on Social Welfare, International Federation of Business and Professional Women, International Organization for Standardization, International Planned Parenthood Federation, World Conference on Religion and Peace, World Federation of United Nations Associations, World Muslim Congress and World Veterans Federation; and from the following organizations in special consultative status: Baha'í International Community, International Federation of Non-Governmental Organizations for the Prevention of Drug and Substance Abuse, Medical Women's International Association, Pan-Pacific and South East Asia Women's Association, Population Council and World Association for Small and Medium Enterprises; and from the following organization on the roster: International Federation of Freight Forwarders Associations. Representatives of the Asian Mass Communication Research and Information Centre, the Asia and Pacific Association for Social Work Education, the Association of Development Financing Institutions in Asia and the Pacific and the Regional Network of Local Authorities for the Management of Human Settlements also attended the session.

14. The list of participants is given in document ESCAP(LIII)/INF.1/Rev.2.

15. In accordance with rule 13 of its rules of procedure, the Commission elected HE Mr Shah A.M.S. Kibria (Bangladesh) Chairperson.

16. Following its past practice, the Commission decided to elect the following heads of delegations Vice-Chairpersons: HE Mr Sergey Manasarian (Armenia), HE Mr Lyonpo Dawa Tsering (Bhutan), HE Pehin Dato Ahmad Wally Skinner (Brunei Darussalam), HE Mr Ou Orhat (Cambodia), HE Mr Yang Wenchang (China), Hon. Militoni Leweniquila (Fiji), HE Mr B.B. Ramaiah (India), HE Mr Ali Alatas (Indonesia), HE Mr Abbas Arab Mazar (Islamic Republic of Iran), HE Mr Masahiko Koumura (Japan), HE Mr K.K. Tokaev (Kazakstan), HE Mr Alibek Jekshenkulov (Kyrgyzstan), HE Mr Kithong Vongsay (Lao People's Democratic Republic), Hon. Datuk Chong Kah Kiat (Malaysia), Hon. Ruben Zackhras (Marshall Islands), Hon. Mangal Siddhi Manandhar (Nepal), Hon. Andres Uherbelau (Palau), HE Ms Lina B. Laigo (Philippines), HE Mr Ki-choo Lee (Republic of Korea), HE Mr S.A. Ordzhonikdze (Russian Federation), HE Mr Lim Hng Kiang (Singapore), Hon. David Sitai (Solomon Islands), HE Mr Prachuab Chaiyasan (Thailand), HE Mr Ismatilla Irgashev (Uzbekistan), Hon. Willie Jimmy (Vanuatu) and HE Mr Nguyen Dy Nien (Viet Nam).

17. The Senior Officials' Segment of the session met in three Committees of the Whole to consider agenda items 1-3 and 5-12. Committee of the Whole I elected Mr M.W.H. Crom (Netherlands) Chairperson and Ms Nguyen Thi Hoi (Viet Nam) and Mr Eiichi Kawahara (Japan) Vice-Chairpersons. Committee of the Whole II elected Mr Herijanto Soeprapto (Indonesia) Chairperson and Mr Metin Kati (Turkey) and HE Mr Isoa Gavidi (Fiji) Vice-Chairpersons. Committee of the Whole III elected Hon. Andres Uherbelau (Palau) Chairperson and HE Mrs Sarala M. Fernando (Sri Lanka) and Mr Morteza Daman Pak Jami (Islamic Republic of Iran) Vice-Chairpersons.

18. The Commission also constituted a Working Group on Draft Resolutions, under the chairmanship of HE Mr Ranjit Gupta (India), to consider draft resolutions presented during the session. Mr Michael Regan (United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland) and Mr Lu Yongshou (China) were elected Vice-Chairpersons of the Working Group.

19. The Chairperson announced that, in accordance with rule 12 of the rules of procedure, he and the Vice-Chairpersons, constituting the Credentials Committee, had examined the credentials of all the representatives and had found them to be in order.

B. Agenda

20. The Commission adopted the following agenda:

1. Opening of the session.
2. Election of officers.
3. Adoption of the agenda (E/ESCAP/L.133, E/ESCAP/L.134 and Corr.1 and 2).
4. Policy issues: Asia and the Pacific into the twenty-first century - Opportunities and challenges for the ESCAP region (E/ESCAP/1045):
   (a) Current socio-economic conditions and preparedness of the region to meet challenges and opportunities;
   (b) Prospects and constraints of the region in trade, investment, and transport and communications.
5. Review of the conference structure of the Commission: resolution 48/2 (E/ESCAP/1046, E/ESCAP/1047, E/ESCAP/1048 and Corr.1, E/ESCAP/1079 and Corr.1).
6. Emerging issues and developments at the regional level:
   (a) Regional economic cooperation (E/ESCAP/1049, E/ESCAP/1050, E/ESCAP/1051, E/ESCAP/1077, E/ESCAP/1078);
   (b) Environment and sustainable development (E/ESCAP/1052, E/ESCAP/1053, E/ESCAP/1054);
   (c) Poverty alleviation through economic growth and social development (E/ESCAP/1055, E/ESCAP/1056, E/ESCAP/1057 and Corr.1);
   (d) Transport and communications (E/ESCAP/1058, E/ESCAP/1059, E/ESCAP/1060);
   (e) Statistics (E/ESCAP/1061, E/ESCAP/1062);
   (f) Least developed, landlocked and island developing countries (E/ESCAP/1063, E/ESCAP/1064).
7. Programme planning:
   (a) Implementation of the programme of work, 1996-1997, and proposed programme changes for 1997 (E/ESCAP/1065 and Corr.1, E/ESCAP/1066);

(b) Draft programme of work, 1998-1999 (E/ESCAP/1067 and Corr.1);

(c) Calendar of meetings, April 1997-March 1998 (E/ESCAP/1068 and Corr.1).

8. Report on technical cooperation activities of ESCAP and announcement of intended contributions (E/ESCAP/1069).

9. Strengthening inter-organizational co-operation in the promotion of economic and social development in the region (E/ESCAP/1070).

10. Reports of regional intergovernmental bodies (E/ESCAP/1071, E/ESCAP/1072, E/ESCAP/1073, E/ESCAP/1074).

11. Activities of the Advisory Committee of Permanent Representatives and Other Representatives Designated by Members of the Commission (E/ESCAP/1075 and Add.1).

12. Date, venue and any other subject pertaining to the fifty-fourth session of the Commission (E/ESCAP/1076).

13. Other matters.

14. Adoption of the report of the Commission.

C. Account of proceedings

21. The session was declared open by the Chairperson of the fifty-second session, HE Ms Lina B. Laigo, Secretary for Social Welfare and Development, Government of the Philippines. HE General Chavalit Yongchaiyudh, Prime Minister of Thailand, delivered the inaugural address. The Executive Secretary of ESCAP read out a message from the Secretary-General of the United Nations and delivered an address.

Inaugural address by the Prime Minister of Thailand

22. The Prime Minister of Thailand, speaking on behalf of the Government and people of Thailand, extended a warm welcome to all those attending the session.

23. He noted that the world had changed almost beyond recognition over the past 50 years. Nowhere was that change more evident than in the Asian and Pacific region. In a single generation, the region had made great strides in overcoming underdevelopment and instability to become a model of economic prosperity amidst a peaceful and stable environment.

24. ESCAP had made significant contributions to the development of Asia. Quietly, yet effectively, it had addressed some of the most important issues affecting the well-being of millions in the region, such as poverty alleviation, public health and agriculture.

25. As ESCAP headed into its second half-century, many of the challenges and opportunities facing the region were likely to be different. Earlier, the challenge had been to generate growth; now it was to ensure that growth occurred in a sustainable manner. Earlier, the challenge had been to create wealth; now it was to see that wealth was more evenly distributed. Earlier, the challenge had been to mobilize labour in the service of economic development; now it was to harness economic development to improve the quality of life for the masses.

26. Those challenges had come at a time when economic cooperation was being intensified as never before. Economic globalization, accelerated by the rapid advance of technology, was creating unprecedented opportunities for those equipped to take advantage of the new trends sweeping the world. At the same time, globalization presented a challenge to the poorest segments of society in every country.

27. There were many international organizations and institutions devoted to increasing the material wealth of nations. ESCAP was one of the few organizations devoted to the human side of development. While the region had enjoyed great success in terms of economic growth, it was beginning to recognize that growth in itself was not enough. In many countries of the region, large gaps in income levels persisted and, in some cases, were widening. Poverty remained a major problem, and the large majority of people were not adequately prepared for the challenges of globalization.

28. For Thailand, the key to adapting successfully to change lay in empowering citizens and local communities. In that connection, the Thailand-United Nations Collaborative Action Plan had recently been launched as an effort to turn into reality the vision of holistic people-centred development that lay at the heart of the Eighth National Economic and Social Development Plan. That type of approach was becoming increasingly influential in the region, with ESCAP playing an indispensable role.

29. In closing, he congratulated the Commission on its achievements over the past 50 years and expressed full confidence that it would continue to work with a renewed sense of purpose and vigour for the enhancement of the economic and social development of the region.

Statement by the Executive Secretary of ESCAP

30. The Executive Secretary welcomed those attending the session, which had a special meaning as it

coincided with the celebration of the fiftieth anniversary of the establishment of the Commission.

31. He expressed gratitude to the Prime Minister of Thailand for inaugurating the session, thus reaffirming his country's dedication to the aims and ideals of the Charter of the United Nations and its support of the Commission's commitment to the enhancement of economic and social development in the region.

32. Much of the world had changed over the past 50 years. ESCAP could be proud of its considerable achievements during that period. However, much remained to be done, and the greatest challenges were yet to be faced in the next century. Some of those challenges had been discussed at a symposium held in Shanghai to commemorate the founding of the Commission. Some would perhaps be debated again at the current session of the Commission.

33. The United Nations, and ESCAP, were engaged in deep introspection into their own role with a view to determining their mission for the developments and challenges to be faced in the next millennium.

34. The current session of the Commission would enable a debate and exchange of views on the challenges and opportunities, and the best and most appropriate Commission structure for addressing all the issues and problems of the region.

Message from the Secretary-General of the United Nations

35. In his message, the Secretary-General noted that the fifty-third session of the Commission coincided with the fiftieth anniversary of the establishment of the Commission. During the past half-century, the Asian and Pacific region had witnessed a range of dramatic changes: economic, social and political. It had made remarkable gains in human development. Particularly in the past two decades, it had emerged as the most rapidly growing region of the world, with a consistently rising level of per capita income. Most recently, many economies in the region, thanks to their dynamism and openness to foreign investment, had attracted high levels of capital inflow.

36. The result had been impressive technological progress, continued economic advances and increasing integration into the global economy. That was a laudable record of which the countries of the region and ESCAP should be proud.

37. Yet, the Asian and Pacific region included the largest number of poor people. Many lower-income countries, where economic and social problems were most acute, were feeling the effects of declining official financial flows. Conditions conducive to sustained economic growth were not yet in place in many countries. The greatest challenge ahead was thus to ensure that the economic and social dynamism that characterized some parts of the region spread throughout the region, and that all segments of society contributed to, and shared in the benefits of, growth and development. ESCAP had a key role to play as a catalyst and facilitator in that process.

38. The fiftieth anniversary session was an occasion not only for celebration but for serious deliberation on ways to address a myriad of challenges. ESCAP, like the other regional commissions and the entire United Nations system, was continuing to adapt to a changing world environment, and seeking to revitalize international cooperation for development and to intensify its moves towards greater efficiency and relevance. He expressed the hope that the work at the current session would reflect the traditional vitality and sense of direction that had become the distinguishing features of the Commission.

Policy issues: Asia and the Pacific into the twenty-first century - Opportunities and challenges for the ESCAP region

Policy statement of the Executive Secretary

39. The Executive Secretary observed that the fiftieth anniversary of ESCAP was an occasion to reflect on the future course of the organization and on ways to make it more responsive to the needs of the vast ESCAP region.

40. There was increasing globalization of economic activities in the late twentieth century as the world was poised to enter the twenty-first century. That had been reflected in accelerated cross-border flows of goods and services, money, finance and investment.

41. In the context of globalization, the Ministerial Conference of the World Trade Organization, held in Singapore in December 1996, had been a significant and positive development. There was a need for the developing countries in the region to evolve a shared proactive agenda to ensure that their interests were adequately addressed at the next Ministerial Conference. The adoption, at the recent Conference, of a plan of action for integrating the least developed countries into the world trading system was particularly significant.

42. The developing countries in the ESCAP region had achieved dynamic growth and deep integration with the world economy by increasing substantially their share of world trade in goods and services, as well as inflows of private finance and investment.

43. However, a vast number of countries and areas in the region, in particular the least developed, landlocked and Pacific island countries and the economies in transition, remained marginal to the

process of integration. Widespread poverty still affected a sizeable proportion of the region's population.

44. Looking for ways to find a fitting role for ESCAP in the complex evolving situation in the region, the Executive Secretary stressed the need for continuing efforts to strengthen existing arrangements for regional and subregional economic cooperation. ESCAP could contribute to that effort by bringing countries together to share their experience and know-how.

45. The role of ESCAP in operational activities, including technical assistance and advisory services, should continue to receive emphasis, particularly to meet the needs of the region's disadvantaged economies. Programmes could be devised to address more directly the different needs of countries at various stages of development, possibly on a tripartite basis. In that connection, the Executive Secretary mentioned the agreement just concluded between ESCAP and the Government of Singapore whereby Singapore offered its training facilities for the benefit of less advanced countries. He also expressed satisfaction at the recent decision of the Government of Indonesia to set up a Trust Fund to expand the technical cooperation programme of ESCAP.

46. The analytical and research capabilities of ESCAP should continue to receive due attention, with forward-looking studies to help members and associate members anticipate the challenges ahead.

47. ESCAP would continue to focus its efforts on measures aimed at poverty alleviation, protection of the environment and natural resources, industrial and technological development, and upgrading of the region's statistical capabilities.

48. He pointed out the challenges to the region's infrastructure in terms of quantity, quality and efficiency in the context of its dynamic growth. In that connection, he took note of the launching of the New Delhi Action Plan on Infrastructure Development in Asia and the Pacific at the Ministerial Conference on Infrastructure held in October 1996, and stressed the need for effective implementation of the Action Plan at both national and regional levels.

49. The secretariat was engaged in preparations for two ministerial meetings scheduled to be held later in the year: the Meeting of Ministers of Industry and Technology and the Fifth Asian and Pacific Ministerial Conference on Social Development.

50. The Executive Secretary drew the Commission's attention to the revised conference structure subsidiary to the Commission, comprising five legislative committees, as agreed in the Regional Preparatory Meeting on the Review of the Conference Structure of the Commission, held in February 1997. The suggested reform held the promise of enhancing the relevance of the Commission to its membership and of streamlining the work of the secretariat. There was a need to involve in partnership the other actors in civil society, including the private sector and non-governmental organizations, in the region's future development.

51. He concluded by seeking the Commission's guidance on ways to make the role of ESCAP more effective in helping to fulfil the region's development aspirations in the future.

Keynote address

52. On the occasion of the fiftieth anniversary of ESCAP, the Executive Secretary invited Dr Nafis Sadik, the Executive Director of the United Nations Population Fund, to give the keynote address to the Commission. In her statement, she underscored the progress that had been made in the social arena during the past 50 years, including increases in life expectancy, reduction in maternal and infant mortality, lowering of population growth rates, and increased literacy and educational levels. Yet, there were significant challenges ahead, including the alleviation of poverty, the continuation of economic growth without endangering the environment, and the promotion of gender equity. There were changes in demographic structures caused by declining birth rates, and significant implications requiring policy responses. Referring to global experiences, in particular that of the newly industrializing economies in the region, she observed that "countries wishing to succeed economically should invest socially".

53. In the South Asian countries, slower population growth was a policy imperative, and investment in reproductive health was the most effective way to reach population and development goals. When combined with the education of girls and women, the result would be a powerful synergy which secured women's reproductive rights and accelerated national development. Dr Sadik also called for greater responsibility and involvement of men in addressing some of the issues that affected the reproductive health of women and men alike.

54. Dr Sadik alluded to the various initiatives that had been launched in response to the recommendations contained in the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development, including the promotion of South-South cooperation.

55. She recalled the continued association of UNFPA with ESCAP in the area of population and development, and informed the Commission that UNFPA was planning to support a follow-up meeting of the Fourth Asian and Pacific Population Conference and the International Conference on Population and Development.

Current socio-economic conditions and preparedness of the region to meet challenges and opportunities; and prospects and constraints of the region in trade, investment, and transport and communications

56. The Commission had before it document E/ESCAP/1045 and the *Economic and Social Survey of Asia and the Pacific 1997*, which contained detailed analysis of the theme, "Asia and the Pacific into the twenty-first century: opportunities and challenges for the ESCAP region". The theme was regarded as most appropriate and timely for the fifty-third session, which coincided with the fiftieth anniversary of the establishment of the Commission. It noted with satisfaction the deliberations of the Shanghai Symposium to Commemorate the Fiftieth Anniversary of ESCAP devoted to the same theme, which had been hosted by the Government of China with supplementary support from the Government of Japan.

57. The ESCAP region had achieved major success in economic growth and social progress. Many of the region's economies had undergone a fundamental transformation from agrarian to industrializing economies in record time. The region was justifiably acclaimed as the most dynamic in the world. Per capita income in many countries had increased considerably. In the social arena, life expectancy had increased, maternal and infant mortality had decreased, birth and death rates had fallen and population growth rates had slowed. Literacy rates had also increased, with a greater proportion of children, both boys and girls, being enrolled in educational institutions. Men and women were finding more and better career opportunities.

58. The region still faced many obstacles and challenges. Economic growth in the past had not benefited all sections of society; large inequities in income distribution persisted and were even widening. Poverty remained a major problem. Two thirds of the poor of the developing countries lived in the ESCAP region. It was thus evident that growth in itself was not enough.

59. Growth had to be pursued in a sustainable manner. Rising demand for food, water, energy and other resources and the spread of environmental pollution were threatening the region's sustainable development. The unevenness in economic growth, the prevalence of poverty, a weak scientific and technological foundation, and backward infrastructure were problems commonly shared by many developing countries in the region.

60. The region's economic success had not been shared by all countries, particularly the least developed, landlocked, Pacific island and transition economies. The problems of low economic growth, deteriorating terms of trade, insignificant FDI inflows, shortfall in export earnings, and the declining flows of concessional resources continued to impede the development efforts of many of those countries.

61. The ongoing processes of globalization, typified by the freer flow of trade, investment and capital, and facilitated by major advances in production and information technologies, could provide opportunities for the developing countries in the region to strengthen their development efforts. Benefits could accrue from specialization in output and trade, and better access to markets, private flows of finance and information. The developing countries in the region had, in fact, adopted outward-looking strategies and liberal policies with a view to integrating themselves into the global and regional economies so that they could secure some of the benefits of globalization. Some of them had succeeded in enhancing their share of world trade and flows of private finance, particularly FDI, thus leading to a greater integration of their economies into the global economy. Such integration had enabled them to improve their growth performance.

62. It was pointed out, however, that in the process of liberalization, a necessary concomitant to participation in globalization, many developing countries had been constrained to make structural adjustments that had sometimes entailed exorbitant human and social costs. The weaker economies of the region, particularly the least developed, landlocked, small island and transition economies, suffered greater constraints in bringing about the necessary adjustments, and had thus far been virtually bypassed by globalization. Indeed, globalization had not automatically mitigated the internal and international economic inequities and imbalances. Rather, there were risks of exacerbating them, unless carefully designed remedial action was implemented.

63. It was therefore necessary to harness the forces of globalization and liberalization so that they would serve large and small, strong and weak economies equally. For that purpose, the forces of globalization and liberalization must be managed and complemented with international development cooperation, bearing in mind that countries at different stages of development, and the developing countries particularly, needed time to prepare themselves to cope with the required adjustments. Each country should be allowed to determine the pace of change based on its needs and circumstances.

64. It was emphasized that the multilateral trading system must continue to function effectively to facilitate the demand for more exchange of goods, services, capital and technology. The trade liberalization initiatives resulting from the Uruguay Round and the pressure to liberalize domestic markets posed considerable challenges to many developing countries in the region. Yet their efforts to integrate themselves into the global trading system were being hampered by market access problems created through technical and

non-tariff barriers to trade, including the imposition of anti-dumping and countervailing duties, and the enforcement of standards which were against the spirit of WTO agreements. Mention was made of the possible negative impact of the arbitrary application of rules of origin on a unilateral basis on the textile and clothing trade, on which many countries in the region depended.

65. There was a need for the full and speedy implementation of the agreements reached under the Uruguay Round, further reinforced by the Ministerial Declaration adopted in Singapore in December 1996. The Commission took note of the plan of action for the least developed countries agreed to in the Ministerial Declaration and urged its speedy implementation. The ESCAP secretariat was urged to assist the developing countries of the region in meeting their commitments under the Uruguay Round agreements, and also to work with the members of ESCAP to formulate a proactive agenda, fully shared and endorsed by the developing countries, for trade liberalization so that the interests of those countries could be better advanced.

66. In addition to improved commercial facilities for the least developed and other disadvantaged groups of economies in the region, increased concessional resource flows and debt relief were of crucial importance in promoting the integration of those economies into the world economy.

67. The Commission agreed that countries of the region would need to continue to liberalize policies and adapt and adjust to the emerging conditions. That should include prudent fiscal policies to avoid chronic fiscal deficits, providing a sound macroeconomic framework, maintaining steady investment in infrastructure, facilitating a flexible labour market, setting up transparent and consistent legal and regulatory frameworks, and continuing education and training to build up human resources capabilities.

68. The Commission held the view that the ESCAP secretariat should continue to provide policy recommendations to the developing members and associate members to deal with the challenges and opportunities arising from globalization and liberalization. ESCAP advisory services and technical assistance in various fields should also be strengthened, particularly for the needs of the least developed countries, the Pacific island States and the economies in transition, so as to enable them to join the global and regional mainstream.

69. The Commission laid emphasis on further strengthening regional cooperation in Asia and the Pacific in various fields, and urged the ESCAP secretariat to facilitate the process. It took note of the existence of various multi-channelled and multi-tiered intraregional and interregional cooperation mechanisms in Asia and the Pacific, and urged the secretariat to develop closer relations with those organizations so as to promote broad-based cooperation in the region.

70. The Commission noted the importance given to the intensification of the integration process in the North-East Asian subregion and its relations with the South-East Asian countries. It also took note of the developments in SAARC and the goal to establish a South Asian Free Trade Area (SAFTA) early in the next century. The recent development of certain institutional mechanisms within ECO to facilitate expansion of trade and investment within the subregion was also noted. The possible accession of China to the Bangkok Agreement was an important development which would strengthen that trading arrangement.

71. "Open regionalism" should be the guiding principle of all regional and subregional organizations. The secretariat should examine the role of regional trading arrangements as open-ended and non-discriminatory arrangements.

72. The Commission urged the secretariat to continue rendering assistance to the developing countries in developing the "soft" infrastructure for trade and investment, including administrative and legal regimes.

73. The Commission supported the initiative taken by ESCAP and ECE to cooperate in rendering technical assistance to Central Asian economies, and the formulation of a joint ESCAP/ECE special programme for the economies of Central Asia. It noted with appreciation the offer of the Government of Kazakstan to host the Seventh Asia-Pacific International Trade Fair in 1998 (ASPAT'98), and appealed to members and associate members to support that initiative through their participation.

74. There was a need for cooperation in critical areas, such as the promotion of science and technology, poverty eradication, environmental protection, human resources development and infrastructure construction, to narrow the development gap in the region. The developing countries needed to have access to recent scientific and technological advances. The region should have the wherewithal to take advantage of modern information technologies so as to have timely access to various data, through networking and the sharing of information, for effective and efficient decision-making.

75. FDI was an important conduit for the transfer of technology. The developing countries needed to be reassured that the transnational corporations would, in their foreign investment activities, pay sufficient attention to the transfer of technology.

76. The Commission commended the role of APCTT in improving the technological capability of the developing countries in the region. It urged the secretariat to strengthen the activities of APCTT in the transfer of environmentally sound technologies.

77. The Commission recommended that ESCAP should continue to accord high priority to the integration of the least developed countries, the Pacific island

economies and the transition economies into the regional flows of trade and investment. It urged the developed and the more dynamic countries of the region to promote private capital flows to those disadvantaged groups of countries within the context of industrial restructuring and relocation.

78. The Commission reiterated the importance of regional cooperation towards reducing the gap in socio-economic development within and among countries and areas in the region. There was a need for a holistic, people-centred approach to development and a continuing focus on the social dimension of development. There was also a need to achieve the goals and targets that the ESCAP members and associate members had adopted in the Manila Declaration and Agenda for Action on Social Development in the ESCAP Region, adopted by the Asian and Pacific Ministerial Conference in Preparation for the World Summit for Social Development, held at Manila in 1994. In that context, the Commission warmly welcomed the offer of the Government of the Philippines to host the Fifth Asian and Pacific Ministerial Conference on Social Development and noted the request to all members and associate members to participate in the Conference. Furthermore, it urged that resources should continue to be channelled to social investments to ensure sustained development and the more equitable distribution of development benefits among all population groups, especially the poor, women and other disadvantaged and vulnerable groups.

79. The Commission emphasized the need for an efficient intra-Asian land-based transport system to facilitate trade, investment and tourism flows within the region. It attached priority to the Asian land transport infrastructure development (ALTID) project in the New Delhi Action Plan on Infrastructure Development in Asia and the Pacific and emphasized the need for its early implementation with the objectives of, *inter alia*, providing access to landlocked countries, developing intra-Asian and Asia-Europe land bridges, completing "missing links", improving and modernizing operational capacity and efficiency and acceding to the relevant international conventions on land transport facilitation.

80. The Commission recognized the importance of infrastructure development in improving the standard of living of rural communities, and poverty alleviation, since the lack of infrastructure often deprived rural populations of effective access to markets, employment opportunities and social service facilities. It laid particular emphasis on meeting the transport and communications infrastructure needs of the region's landlocked countries and the island developing countries to facilitate their international trade and tourism.

81. The Commission attached high priority to environment and natural resources development and management. It noted, in particular, the importance of energy, water resources, including hydroelectric power, mineral resources and space technology applications to socio-economic development. It stressed the need for implementation of Agenda 21 with renewed vigour, recognizing the responsibility of all concerned. It urged the secretariat to continue undertaking activities to support its members and associate members in their efforts towards the implementation of Agenda 21, through studies, advisory services, training, exchange of experience, institutional networking and twinning of institutions in developed and developing countries. For successful implementation of Agenda 21, the Commission noted the need for adequate external resources on a sustained basis to surmount the weaknesses and structural handicaps of many developing countries.

82. The Commission took note that, later in the year, Japan would host the third meeting of the contracting countries to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, which was expected to discuss measures to deal with a likely increase in the emission of greenhouse gases by 2000 and beyond.

83. The Commission observed that ESCAP could look back with a sense of pride on its tremendous achievements over the preceding 50 years, during which it had played a constructive and catalytic role in the promotion of economic and social cooperation among countries of the region. During those five decades, ESCAP had also extended technical support to governments through advisory services, training and sharing of regional experience, knowledge and data as necessary inputs for decision-making and management of national development.

84. The Asian and Pacific region had changed in many ways since the founding of ESCAP and the region was covered by a network of organizations and arrangements for the promotion of economic cooperation and development. Nevertheless, member governments felt that the work of ESCAP remained not only relevant but indispensable to the region's social and economic development. However, it was necessary for the organization to adjust to the emerging new realities in the region and to give its activities a sharper focus in order to address the changing needs of members and associate members. It was suggested that ESCAP could consider developing a framework to chart the direction of its future work on development cooperation in the region in the twenty-first century.

85. The Commission expressed the hope that peace and stability would continue to prevail in the region as a basis for its future development. Note was taken of a general trend towards the creation of a multipolar system in international relations and a growing desire among the Asian and Pacific countries to harmonize ties between nations, based on genuine equality and respect for mutual interests, with a view to solving global and regional problems.

Review of the conference structure of the Commission: resolution 48/2

86. The Commission had before it documents E/ESCAP/1046, E/ESCAP/1047, E/ESCAP/1048 and Corr.1, and E/ESCAP/1079 and Corr.1.

87. The Commission noted that, in compliance with its resolution 52/1 of 24 April 1996, the Regional Preparatory Meeting on the Review of the Conference Structure of the Commission had been held at Bangkok in February 1997. The Meeting had deliberated on the findings and recommendations contained in the reports of the secretariat and ACPR, as well as the views of the eminent persons on the report of the Task Force on ESCAP Reform. The deliberations had focused, in particular, on the thematic approach, the conference structure, the conduct of annual sessions of the Commission and the role of ACPR. The Meeting took into account the multifaceted role of the Commission as the only intergovernmental regional forum covering the Asian and Pacific region as a whole for the exchange of national economic and social development views and experience.

88. The Commission endorsed the recommendations of the Meeting and welcomed the considerable progress made in ESCAP reform through close collaboration between the members and associate members and the secretariat. The reform of the conference structure should seek to bring about wider participation of members and associate members in the Commission. It should aim to sharpen the focus of work of the Commission and its committees and thereby to improve effectiveness and efficiency in the delivery of the ESCAP programme of work. Within that context, the terms of reference of the committees should be flexible to enable ESCAP to respond to new demands and adjust its priorities in the light of the region's rapidly changing economic and social circumstances.

89. The reform of ESCAP should be an ongoing process within the broader framework of the reform of the United Nations. Regular reviews would contribute to ascertaining the relevance of the work of the Commission and its subsidiary structure to the requirements of members and associate members, and provide opportunities for further adjustments in the functions of the Commission and the committees.

90. The Commission recommended that its sessions should continue to be held on an annual basis, comprising a senior officials' segment followed by a ministerial segment. It supported the organization of an informal session among the heads of delegation during the ministerial segment of each session. It was proposed that an agenda should be decided by consensus and should be circulated well in advance to the members and associate members, to ensure the efficiency and effectiveness of each session. One delegation suggested that the agenda for the informal session should be decided by consensus, that the annotated agenda should reach members at least 30 days before the opening of the session and that simultaneous interpretation should be provided. The informal session should be organized on a year-to-year basis and should not be institutionalized. With regard to the duration of its sessions, the Commission requested ACPR to undertake a review, after the fifty-third session, of the possibility of further reducing the number of meeting days from the current seven days. It stressed the need for a focused agenda for its sessions. The interrelations among the issues dealt with by the three thematic committees should be addressed.

91. Recognizing that the advantages of the thematic approach outweighed the disadvantages, the Commission fully supported the recommendations of the Meeting. Considering that a process of evolution was preferable to any radical change, it felt that the right approach would be to consolidate the gains wherever they had been made and to make the necessary changes in the case of those committees and subprogrammes where some reordering of programme areas or a clearer expression of focus could be of advantage. That was particularly felt with respect to the themes relating to poverty alleviation, and environment and sustainable development. It approved the five committees subsidiary to the Commission, with the periodicity of sessions as follows: (a) regional economic cooperation, which would be assisted by a steering group (biennial, with the steering group meeting annually); (b) socio-economic measures to alleviate poverty in rural and urban areas (annual); (c) environment and natural resources development (annual); (d) transport, communications, tourism and infrastructure development (annual); and (e) statistics (biennial). It agreed that the duration of the sessions of the committees, as well as of the steering group, should not exceed three days, although one delegation suggested that the duration of sessions of the Committee on Statistics should be extended to four days in view of the scope of the matters requiring its attention. The Commission also approved the recommendation that the Special Body on Pacific Island Developing Countries and the Special Body on Least Developed and Landlocked Developing Countries should be retained and reinvigorated. The Special Bodies, at their recent sessions, which had taken place immediately prior to the Commission session, had decided to meet biennially; the Special Body on Pacific Island Developing Countries would meet in even years, and the Special Body on Least Developed and Landlocked Developing Countries in odd years. The sessions would be held back-to-back with the sessions of the Commission. The request made in the Meeting that the secretariat should approach donors to mobilize resources so as to ensure the participation of at least one representative from the Pacific island subregion in each session of the committees was reiterated.

92. The Commission deliberated on whether some of the names of the committees should be reconsidered in order to attract appropriate representation from member and associate member governments in their sessions. The majority of the delegations held the view that the names should be retained as recommended by the Meeting, since the titles had been arrived at after thorough review by both ACPR and the Meeting and intensive negotiations among the members and associate members of the Commission; however, one delegation suggested that the name of the Committee on Regional Economic Cooperation could be renamed the Committee on Trade, Industry, Investments and Technology and that the Committee on Socio-economic Measures to Alleviate Poverty in Rural and Urban Areas could be renamed the Committee on Poverty Alleviation. The Commission recognized the need to focus the discussion in the committees through a choice of a limited number of areas from a few closely related sectoral disciplines, to ensure appropriate representation of member and associate member governments in the sessions.

93. The Commission noted that, as recommended by the Meeting, the detailed draft terms of reference for each of the committees which had been prepared by the secretariat had been considered by ACPR and included in a draft resolution on the restructuring of the conference structure of the Commission. The terms of reference reflected the need to undertake quantifiable tasks within a set time-frame and to generate tangible results. The special concerns of the least developed and landlocked countries, the Pacific island developing countries and the economies in transition, as well as cross-cutting issues such as the environment and women in development, should be addressed. Each committee would monitor the implementation and effectiveness of its tasks. With regard to the terms of reference of the Committee on Regional Economic Cooperation pertaining to the participation of representatives of private sector organizations and non-governmental organizations in the Steering Group, the suggestion was made that the existing sentence should be revised to read: "Subject to the approval of members and associate members by consensus, representatives of development agencies, financial institutions, private sector organizations and non-governmental organizations may be invited to meetings of the Steering Group to fulfil its role as a 'think tank'".

94. The Commission expressed the opinion that ad hoc ministerial meetings should be restricted to no more than one per year, and that it was not necessary to convene regional intergovernmental preparatory meetings for global conferences. Rather, ESCAP should concentrate on the implementation of the decisions of such conferences at the regional level. It supported the recommendation of the Meeting that the number of intergovernmental meetings should be reduced from the current 15 per year to 5, and the maximum number of meeting days per calendar year for such meetings from the current 100 to 25.

95. The Commission held the strong view that ESCAP and other United Nations bodies, programmes and specialized agencies, as well as regional and subregional organizations, should make every effort to avoid duplication in their respective areas of work. In that connection, it recognized the role of RICAP in strengthening inter-agency coordination at the regional level. It also noted the existing cooperation between the secretariat and intergovernmental organizations such as ASEAN, ECO and SAARC, and requested that such cooperation should be continued.

96. With regard to the issue of resource allocations and prioritization of activities, several delegations suggested that resources should be reallocated from lower priority areas to selected priority areas. The Commission welcomed the questionnaire circulated to its members and associate members seeking their assessment of the secretariat's resource allocations at the programme activity level for the programme of work, 1996-1997, and requested that the analysis of the responses from the governments should be used for proposing changes to the programme of work, 1998-1999 and as a basis for future programme planning. It also suggested that the publications programme should be reviewed with a view to streamlining it.

97. The Commission recognized the important role of ACPR in assisting the secretariat in discharging its tasks and in undertaking the reform exercise. It recommended that ACPR should further examine ways to enhance and improve its ability to advise and assist the Executive Secretary in drawing up proposals for the medium-term plan, the programme budget and the work programme priorities and resource allocation that were consistent with the guidelines provided by the Commission, and in monitoring and evaluating the implementation and outcomes of the programme of work. The Commission also recommended that ACPR should review the secretariat's proposals for areas of focus of the committees, which would assist the secretariat in the formulation of the programme structure. It stressed that there should be conformity between the conference structure and the programme structure.

98. The Commission adopted resolution 53/1 on the conference structure of the Commission.

Emerging issues and developments at the regional level

Regional economic cooperation

99. The Commission had before it documents E/ESCAP/1049, E/ESCAP/1050, E/ESCAP/1051, E/ESCAP/1077, and E/ESCAP/1078.

Report of the Committee for Regional Economic Cooperation on its sixth session

100. The Commission endorsed the report of the Committee for Regional Economic Cooperation on its sixth session, held at Bangkok in March 1997 (E/ESCAP/1049) and expressed appreciation of the high quality of the deliberations of the Steering Group on topical issues at its ninth meeting, held at Chitose City, Japan, in February 1997. It supported the secretariat initiatives in the areas of trade efficiency in air cargo movement, information technology, and cross-border trade and transactions, noting that those issues had not been discussed previously in any regional forums. The Commission expressed gratitude to the Government of Japan and the Chitose City authorities for hosting the ninth meeting of the Steering Group and for the excellent meeting arrangements.

101. The Commission recognized the need to strengthen regional economic cooperation as an appropriate response to globalization and liberalization. It stressed the importance of regional cooperation in trade investment; science and technology, including information technology; and human resources development. It noted that while challenges abounded for the developing countries in responding to globalization and liberalization, opportunities were also emerging. Developing countries should be assisted in taking advantage of those opportunities in order to end their marginalization and raise their standard of living.

102. The Commission recognized the importance of subregional cooperation as an effective modality in spreading the growth momentum and accelerating socio-economic development in the region. It noted the various initiatives taken in the region, including the establishment of growth triangles and quadrangles in South-East and South Asia. It welcomed developments relating to economic cooperation in subregional organizations, including ASEAN, ECO, SAARC and the South Pacific Forum Secretariat. The Commission commended the secretariat on its efforts to promote subregional cooperation and coordination in, for example, Indo-China and North-East Asia. It requested the secretariat to continue its efforts to promote inter-subregional linkages, particularly between North-East and South-East Asia. The Commission also emphasized the importance of private sector participation, especially in the development of infrastructure for trade and investment. It commended the secretariat on taking the initiative to establish a North-East Asia business forum. The Commission commended the secretariat on the technical assistance initiatives taken as a follow-up to its resolution 52/11 of 24 April 1996 on the strengthening of subregional economic cooperation among the south-western member countries of ESCAP, including the member countries of ECO, and requested the secretariat to take further follow-up action.

103. The Commission stressed the importance of trade efficiency and its beneficial effects upon improved global trading practices. It requested that special efforts should be made to develop discussion papers on various aspects of trade efficiency. The papers should contain descriptions of best practices and models and establish viable benchmarks for assessing the efficacy of existing procedures. It requested the secretariat to organize meetings of experts to discuss matters relating to the promotion of electronic commerce, including electronic data interchange; the adoption of standards; amendments to national laws and regulations to accommodate the needs of electronic commerce; and trade process re-engineering for simplifying and harmonizing trade procedures in the region.

104. Information technology was a major driving force for globalization, with wide-ranging implications for social and economic development. The Commission recommended that, in promoting regional cooperation in information technology, the secretariat should concentrate on human resources development, promotion of the use of information technology by small and medium-sized industries, technology-blending, and computer education and training for youth in least developed and island developing economies.

105. The Commission noted the complex relationship between cross-border trade and the infrastructure required to facilitate its expansion. It urged the secretariat to conduct in-depth studies on the potential for and the requirements of cross-border trade and transactions, with special reference to physical and non-physical infrastructure facilities. In that exercise, the interests of the marginalized or disadvantaged groups should be kept in view.

106. The Commission reaffirmed the role of science and technology in economic cooperation. While expressing its appreciation to the secretariat and its regional institutions and projects, namely, APCTT, RNAM and the CGPRT Centre, for the implementation of the Action Programme for Regional Economic Cooperation in Investment-related Technology Transfer, the Commission requested the secretariat to meet the requirements of the least developed and island developing economies and the economies in transition for technical assistance, as well as for technology upgrading and skills development in small and medium-sized industries. It noted with appreciation the generous offer of the Government of India to share technology and the results of research conducted for such industries with other developing countries, and to host a seminar on the promotion of technology transfer to and among countries of the region and on technological capability-building. It also noted the activities of the Consultancy Development Centre of India and the assistance it provided to the Technical Consultancy Development Programme for Asia and the Pacific, which had been established by ESCAP. It urged the secretariat to

augment the financial resources provided to that Programme by members of the Commission.

107. The Commission urged the secretariat to continue its technical assistance to developing countries in support of trade liberalization, particularly in the context of multilateralism and WTO. In the aftermath of the first WTO Ministerial Conference, held in Singapore in December 1996, the secretariat should continue its efforts, in collaboration with relevant international organizations, to provide assistance to developing countries in acceding to WTO, to enhance understanding of emerging issues and help, as required, in fulfilling their commitments. The Commission emphasized the importance of developing, where possible, a proactive agenda which was fully shared and endorsed by the developing countries for use in future negotiations under the agreements of the Uruguay Round. Some delegations expressed concern over the manner in which the first stage of implementation of the Agreement on Textiles and Clothing had taken place, and stressed that during the remaining stages the implementation should be in accordance with the letter and spirit of the Agreement. The Commission cautioned against overloading the WTO agenda with issues that were extraneous to trade. It stressed that the envisaged studies on the interrelationship between trade and investment, and trade and competition policy should take account of the development perspective and should not result in a deepening of poverty and further marginalization of vulnerable groups of countries. In view of the proliferation of anti-dumping measures and countervailing duties, as well as environmental standards based on production and process methods, the Commission requested the secretariat to undertake studies on those issues with a view to ensuring that such measures were consistent with WTO rules and principles. It also requested the secretariat to undertake studies on the relationship between multilateral environmental agreements, particularly those requiring the transfer of environmentally sound technologies to developing countries on fair and favourable terms, and WTO agreements, such as the Agreement on Trade-related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights (TRIPs).

108. The Commission noted the work being done to integrate the economies in transition in order to accelerate their entry into mainstream regional and global markets. It further noted that the economic integration of the Asian part of the Russian Federation with the rest of the Asian and Pacific region had been stipulated as the main objective of the Federal Programme for the Economic and Social Development of Siberia and the Far East for the period 1995-2005. With its thrust on trade and investment promotion, the Programme could benefit from cooperation arrangements within the subprogramme on regional economic cooperation. In that context, the activities undertaken by ESCAP towards the establishment of a North-East Asia business forum were cited as useful. The Commission recognized the important role of the private sector in dealing with problems specific to economies in transition. It also recognized that ESCAP could play an important role in assisting economies in transition in dealing with the problems of accession to WTO.

Emerging issues and developments relevant to the subprogramme

109. The Commission had before it document E/ESCAP/1050, on emerging issues and developments relevant to the subprogramme. It endorsed the general thrust of the document, namely, the need to link microeconomic and macroeconomic tools to deal with problems of financial linkages, trade in commodities, small business facilitation, and environmental management standards for industrial restructuring. The Commission noted the recent developments in Indo-China and recognized the need to bring about greater coordination among the various international initiatives.

110. Financial services were of critical importance for enhancing intraregional trade and investment flows. The Commission noted the analysis pertaining to the need for effective intermediation by financial institutions at the regional level, including through strengthening the capacities of domestic financial institutions. It recommended that the secretariat should undertake studies to investigate and promote the exchange of experience and ideas on how financial linkages could be enhanced in the region to facilitate trade and investment. It recommended that studies should be undertaken to promote greater awareness of regional linkages in trade and finance among senior policy makers and managers, and that advisory and training services should be provided. The issue of fiscal incentives, including the possibility of harmonization, was an important factor in attracting foreign investment and therefore required examination by the secretariat.

111. The Commission reiterated its support for secretariat activities in assisting countries to pursue long-term measures to strengthen the supply-side factors in their commodity sector through infrastructure development and improvement of research and extension, as well as information exchange on potential commodity demand, especially with regard to importing country requirements, including regulations, tariff and non-tariff regimes, product quality requirements and market preferences. It welcomed the secretariat's proposed initiatives to sensitize member countries to issues of commodity price risk management and new export marketing techniques. It was suggested that close cooperation with the Common Fund for Commodities and international commodity bodies would complement the secretariat efforts and that the participation of private sector organizations involved in commodity exports in those activities should be encouraged.

112. The Commission endorsed the linkage-intensive development strategy for small business facilitation in the region. It urged the secretariat to implement the work programme in small business trade facilitation, including the modelling of international trade transactions with an emphasis on methods used by small business; the development of recommendations to simplify, harmonize or eliminate practices and procedures; the identification of related legal and other institutional constraints; and the promotion and provision of support for national trade facilitation organizations.

113. The Commission noted with appreciation the assistance being provided by the secretariat in the area of industrial and technological development of the region. It urged the secretariat to provide increased assistance in building national capacity through skills development programmes in the preparation and appraisal of industrial investment projects. The Commission was of the opinion that the Meeting of Ministers of Industry and Technology, scheduled to be held towards the end of 1997, was timely and useful.

114. The Commission welcomed the diffusion of environmental management systems such as ISO 14000. It felt that ISO 14000 should be promoted on a voluntary basis and should not become a mandatory requirement. It also held the view that the promotion and popularization of such environmental standards should not become another form of barrier to trade.

115. The Commission noted the global activities of UNCTAD, especially in relation to its focus on major development challenges and its cross-cutting themes in support of the least developed countries, and its continued high-level collaboration with the secretariat in matters of trade, transport, investment, policy and research. The Commission was informed of a joint high-level UNCTAD/WTO/ITC meeting, to be held in Geneva in October 1997, on proposed integrated initiatives for least developed countries to increase their export supply capacity, as well as a related ESCAP initiative in collaboration with ADB and UNCTAD. The Commission also noted the activities of the World Association for Small and Medium Enterprises, its commitment to the trade and industrial growth of small and medium-sized enterprises, and its offer to collaborate with the secretariat on the special issues of such enterprises, for example, women in business, and the globalization of such enterprises in the region. The Commission further noted the continued cooperation of the Asian Clearing Union with the secretariat on matters relating to the facilitation of settlement of payments for transactions on a multilateral basis within the region, and urged the secretariat to collaborate with the Union in its campaign to expand its membership.

Institutional framework and policy dialogue for the promotion of industrial restructuring in the Asian and Pacific region

116. The Commission emphasized the vital importance of industrial restructuring in promoting international competitiveness and regional integration. Many delegations recommended the establishment of an informal regional forum for the promotion of industrial restructuring in the region and endorsed its terms of reference. The Commission emphasized that the informal forum could play a useful role in promoting dialogue among policy makers, private sector representatives and professional experts of members and associate members. The informal forum was a timely initiative and could serve as a useful mechanism in supplementing national efforts to implement structural changes in the industrial sector in an era of globalization and liberalization. It urged the secretariat to design the activities of the informal forum flexibly, to encourage the maximum participation of the business community. In particular, several delegations highlighted the need to avoid duplication of the work being done on that subject in other forums. One delegation observed that it could not support new programming proposals for ESCAP while a resource use survey was under way. Another delegation expressed concern at the suggestion that a regional forum was required to develop policies for industrial restructuring, and was of the opinion that the majority of issues to be addressed by such a forum could overlap those addressed in the work of other agencies. The same delegation observed that it would be more useful for the informal forum to disseminate research findings of interest to members rather than to undertake that research itself. The secretariat assured the delegations that in designing the activities of the informal forum every effort would be made to avoid duplication and retain flexibility. The establishment of the informal forum would have no regular budget resource implications. However, some delegations felt that it would be best to postpone a decision on the establishment of the forum until the resource prioritization exercise had been completed.

117. The Commission observed that industrial restructuring was essential for developing and sustaining linkages on at least two levels: between small and large enterprises, and between industries across countries at different levels of development. Industrial restructuring was also essential to promote relocation and diversification in accordance with the changing comparative advantage of the countries in the region. While stressing the importance of encouraging such restructuring processes, the Commission urged the secretariat to strengthen its assistance in promoting non-polluting and environmentally sound industrial relocation.

118. Industrial restructuring provided increased opportunities for the adoption of environmentally sound methods of production in the region. Major re-evaluation of production methods would be required while carrying out such restructuring measures. The Commission was of the opinion that governments should switch from a reactive to a proactive approach. They should create regulatory and incentive regimes to induce industrial enterprises to evaluate alternative production techniques while undertaking restructuring. It noted with satisfaction that several countries had already instituted proactive policies, such as the establishment of national facilities to monitor the gradual elimination of the use of chlorofluorocarbons in some manufacturing industries.

119. The Commission welcomed the recommendation that a pilot project should be designed and put into operation in three countries to demonstrate how industrial restructuring could be effected in small and medium-sized enterprises and agro-based industries through integrated environmentally sound technology transfer services. It noted with satisfaction the offer of India to launch such a pilot project.

Report on the Asian and Pacific Centre for Transfer of Technology

120. The Commission endorsed the report and recommendations of the Governing Board of APCTT on its eleventh session (E/ESCAP/1051). It expressed appreciation of the useful activities of the Centre in meeting the needs of technology-related institutions, intermediaries and enterprises in upgrading their indigenous capabilities, especially for the transfer of environmentally sound technologies to small and medium-sized enterprises. It recognized that the Centre had been working actively and in partnership with the private sector and urged it to continue that effort on a fee-charging basis. It noted the activities of the Centre in environmental management and urged it to further assist small and medium-sized enterprises in adopting ISO 9000 and ISO 14000 concepts, including life-cycle assessment and eco-labelling. It also noted that the Mechanism for Exchange of Technology Information (METI) had progressed successfully and was instrumental in facilitating the transfer of environmentally sound technologies to small and medium-sized enterprises. It proposed that the network should also cover aspects of clean technologies and that national data banks and networks should be connected electronically to the Centre's METI database.

121. The Commission noted with appreciation that the Centre's periodicals and publications continued to reach out to small and medium-sized enterprises and were being disseminated through subscription, and that publications were being translated into local languages by partner institutions or associations in member countries. It urged the Centre to strengthen activities to promote technology management, evaluation, assessment, and the licensing of technology. The Centre should also promote research and development, as well as cooperation among enterprises for the blending of indigenous and imported technologies. The Commission commended the Centre on its activities aimed at promoting the integration of women into technological areas.

122. The Commission emphasized that the participating countries should consider the secondment of professional staff to APCTT and should increase efforts to meet the institutional costs of the Centre and establish an endowment fund. It acknowledged with gratitude the substantial institutional and programme assistance received from the Government of Germany. It expressed gratitude to all members for providing APCTT with institutional support, and especially to the Government of India for providing host facilities as well. It appreciated the offer of that Government to place an expert on a non-reimbursable loan basis at the Centre and urged other governments to follow suit. It appreciated the assistance provided by the Government of the Netherlands and the programme support by UNDP. It was grateful for the offers of various other members to provide host facilities for APCTT programmes.

Report on the Regional Network for Agricultural Machinery

123. The Commission took note of the activities of RNAM on the introduction and testing of post-harvest and food-processing technologies for rural women in pilot areas in each country; the training of trainers for entrepreneurship to enable rural women to operate small agribusinesses; the operation, repair and maintenance of agricultural machinery; the transfer of 32 machines developed in RNAM member countries to least developed countries; the regional workshop on the establishment of databases for agricultural machinery; and blacksmithing courses in selected least developed countries. It recommended that the Network should assist the participating countries in develop[illegible] appropriate machines for rice transplanting as well as for soil and water conservation, as requested by them. It also recommended that RNAM should assist the countries in holding regional agricultural machinery exhibitions and symposia, as in the past, to allow them to gain exposure to the latest developments in the field. The Commission urged the donor countries and agencies to provide sufficient funds to carry out those activities. It gratefully acknowledged the generous contributions to RNAM of the Governments of China, Japan, the Netherlands and the Republic of Korea, and UNIDO, and the cash contributions of the participating countries.

Environment and sustainable development

Report of the Committee on Environment and Sustainable Development on its third session

124. The Commission had before it the report of the Committee on Environment and Sustainable Development on its third session (E/ESCAP/1052). It took note of efforts being undertaken and problems faced by various countries in implementing sustainable development.

125. The Commission took special note of the regional review of progress in the implementation of the outcomes of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development in the region and selected emerging issues in the implementation of Agenda 21, as reported by the Committee. Considerable progress had been achieved in the Asian and Pacific region, at both national and regional levels, in the implementation of Agenda 21.

126. The Commission noted achievements in integrating environmental concerns into national economic development as reported by various members and associate members. It also noted the recent trends in integrating environmental concerns into international trade agreements and expressed concern that that might incur the risk of creating non-tariff barriers. It observed that some members felt that compliance with ISO 14000 standards would be sufficient at the present time and that they need not comply with other, possibly stricter, environmental management standards. Certain delegations expressed the view that ISO standards should continue to be developed.

127. The Commission noted the concern of some members and associate members that the lack of adequate financial resource allocation and of significant progress in the transfer of environmentally sound technologies and capacity-building were the main constraints on the implementation of Agenda 21 towards the achievement of sustainable development. While technology transfer was implemented by both the public and the private sectors, governments of developed and developing countries could assist in that process, where appropriate, through the organization of workshops, demonstration projects, training, and developing strategies for ongoing commercial activities, as well as through the introduction of specific incentives and policies, fiscal or otherwise, for the transfer of environmentally sound technologies to developing countries.

128. The Commission recognized the importance of building local capacity as an essential prerequisite to the technology transfer, diffusion and innovation process. To that end, more attention should be given to technology cooperation and partnerships between developed and developing countries, and to the promotion and use of the environmentally sound indigenous technologies and related knowledge that existed in developing countries of the region. Furthermore, regional and subregional cooperation could supplement national efforts in that endeavour. It would be useful to enhance the role of United Nations bodies, financial facilities and institutions concerned with technology and its transfer, such as GEF, ADB and APCTT, so that environment and sustainable development could be given priority and, in achieving those objectives, could be supported by the necessary funds and the required transfer of technology.

129. On the financing issue, the Commission concluded that, together with mobilization of national resources, further efforts should be made to increase the levels of official development assistance, and requested the provision of new and additional financial resources in compliance with the agreements reached at the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, as stipulated in sections 33.1 and 33.13 of chapter 33 of Agenda 21. The Commission also urged full implementation of the provisions of Agenda 21 on technology transfer, especially those stipulated in chapter 34.

130. The Commission expressed concern that several hundred million people throughout the region still had no access to a safe water supply and adequate sanitation and that the investments needed over the next decade, especially in the rapidly growing urban areas, were far beyond the investment capacity of many governments of the region. It recommended encouragement of private sector participation for investment in related infrastructure development and the promotion of community participation to ensure that the poor had access to and could afford safe drinking water.

131. The Commission emphasized the importance of integrated development of surface-water and groundwater resources to support the respective national social and economic development programmes. It noted the increasing trend to use groundwater to meet the rapidly increasing demands in many countries of the region which faced emerging severe shortage of fresh water. In noting the various measures taken by the respective countries to protect and conserve the limited groundwater resources, the Commission called for more effective integrated water resources development and management practices and the adoption of economic measures for more efficient use of water resources, including the application of appropriate water-pricing policies and reuse of waste water. The Commission expressed concern about the trend of increasing pollution of freshwater resources from various uses, especially in the rapidly expanding urban areas and by industries.

132. The Commission attached high priority to energy as a critical input into social and economic development. Recognizing that the phenomenal growth of energy demand for sustained economic growth in the region would continue, it stressed the need for sustainable development and rational utilization of energy resources. It also noted the national efforts in diversifying energy resources towards alternative energy, such as hydroelectric power, in a number of countries. However, it observed that, owing to resource constraints, fossil fuels, particularly coal, would be used increasingly in many countries, resulting in associated environmental problems such as air and water pollution, and waste disposal. The Commission therefore recommended that an appropriate environmental plan, including the application of clean-coal technology, should be implemented for the sustainable development of those resources. However, it noted the concern of some countries that financial and technical assistance would be needed for that capital-intensive endeavour.

133. The Commission noted that new and renewable sources of energy would continue to play an important role in energy supplies in rural areas, where the majority of the population lived in developing countries. It therefore suggested that the secretariat should strengthen its activities, including TCDC initiatives, in that area. It also recognized the potential for energy conservation and efficient production and use of energy and noted the importance of energy demand management and optimum utilization.

134. The Commission emphasized the importance of the sustainable supply of mineral resources in the region and recommended strengthening the framework of policies related to mineral resources development and management, as deemed appropriate, including the promotion of private sector participation. It also noted that conflicting land-use and environmental degradation tended to impede such development efforts, and urged the secretariat to assist member countries in formulating and implementing effective policies and programmes so as to ensure a sustainable mineral supply. The Commission expressed support of ESCAP initiatives in promoting subregional cooperation in mineral resource assessment and development in North-East Asia, and urged the secretariat to continue those activities, focusing on the application of GIS and remote sensing data.

135. The Commission noted that several countries in the region were in the process of formulating effective environmental impact assessment guidelines and policies related to mineral resources development and management, focusing on country-specific conditions. It urged the secretariat to focus its further assistance by providing training and guidance in that field. It noted the increasing trend of integrating geoscience into urban development planning and recommended that further efforts should be made in that regard on land-use planning to enhance the sustainability of urban development in the region. It noted with satisfaction the increased participation of planning authorities in the Forum on Urban Geology in Asia and the Pacific and urged members and associate members to continue that trend so as to enhance the sustainability of fast-growing cities by fully integrating natural and geological conditions into urban planning and decision-making.

136. The Commission noted the importance of combating desertification, and the progress made by members, associate members and the secretariat in that regard. It called for further support, and especially for the implementation of Commission resolution 51/12 of 1 May 1995 on strengthening of the Regional Network of Research and Training Centres on Desertification Control in Asia and the Pacific.

137. The Commission noted the importance of applications of space technology in a holistic approach for natural resources and environment management as well as disaster monitoring. It also noted the progress made by members and associate members, and the secretariat, in the promotion of integrated uses of space technologies for sustainable development. It called for further support in the development of spatial information infrastructure. A number of countries expressed their continuing strong support of the work of the secretariat in the field of space technology applications.

138. In recognizing natural disaster reduction as an integral part of sustainable development in the region, the Commission recommended that further national and regional efforts should be directed towards enhancing preparedness and natural disaster reduction activities to support the national development programmes of members and associate members.

139. The Commission expressed appreciation of the secretariat's activities, including advisory services, training and workshops, in the field of environment and sustainable development and urged continued extrabudgetary support for undertaking such activities. It noted with satisfaction the funding support of UNDP and donor countries for the implementation of most of the technical assistance activities in the areas of energy and space technology applications, including remote sensing and GIS; it urged them to continue providing support.

140. The Commission, expressing general support for the priority issues to be taken up at the fourth session of the Committee, endorsed the report on its third session, as contained in document E/ESCAP/1052, and the recommendations made by the Committee.

Report on progress and achievements in the implementation of Commission resolutions and the follow-up of global conferences in connection with environment and sustainable development

141. The Commission had before it document E/ESCAP/1053. It reviewed the progress achieved in the implementation of the recommendations of the Ministerial Conference on Space Applications for Development in Asia and the Pacific, held at Beijing in 1994, and Commission resolution 52/8 of 24 April 1996 on the third Ministerial Conference on Environment and Development in Asia and the Pacific, which had been held at Bangkok in 1995.

142. With respect to the Ministerial Conference on Space Applications for Development in Asia and the Pacific, the Commission expressed satisfaction that the outcomes of the Conference were already being translated into concrete actions at both the national and the regional levels, and that many of the actions had already had a tangible impact on national capability-building in using space technology applications for sustainable development in the developing countries of the region.

143. The Commission also noted with satisfaction that, at the national level, many governments had been implementing a wide spectrum of activities, which included developing national policies and strategies, formulating programming and planning, and re-engineering institutional structures, as well as establishing mechanisms to improve national coordination and enhance inter-agency cooperation.

144. Considering the progress achieved at the regional level, the Commission commended the secretariat on its leading role in initiating a wide range of mission-specific, result-driven activities in implementing the recommendations of the Ministerial Conference and Commission resolution 51/11 of 1 May 1995 on regional cooperation on space applications for environment and sustainable development in Asia and the Pacific. It also commended the efforts of the secretariat in mobilizing extrabudgetary resources, organizing policy studies in relation to the harmonization of regional cooperative initiatives, and providing various types of technical assistance to developing countries through numerous seminars and workshops, fellowship studies for human resources development and a large number of pilot projects towards national capacity-building. The Ministerial Conference and follow-up activities had had a far-reaching impact and thus helped Asia and the Pacific to become a leading developing region in the arena of space technology applications.

145. In view of the importance and direct relevance to the member countries of space technology applications for sustainable social and economic development, including remote sensing, GIS and satellite communication applications, especially in the fields of natural resources and environmental management, disaster mitigation and distance education, the Commission continued to accord high priority to space technology, for applications dealing in particular with land-use planning, coastal zone management, mineral resources exploration, crop monitoring, water and geology-related disasters monitoring, and inventories of forests. The importance of satellite communication in information networking and distance education to assist developing countries in human resources development was also emphasized.

146. Although impressive progress had been made at both national and regional levels, several barriers, in particular the lack of funds, trained human resources, adequate information infrastructure and appropriate national coordination mechanisms, were still hampering the full implementation of the Regional Space Applications Programme for Sustainable Development (RESAP). It was stressed that those issues needed to be further addressed following a regional approach. The Commission considered that there was a need for further regional cooperation to help developing countries in removing such barriers and allow the region to gain further momentum in the use of space technologies for sustainable development.

147. The Commission therefore considered that it was essential that both regular budget and extrabudgetary resources be made available for the full implementation of the Beijing Declaration on Space Technology Applications for Environmentally Sound and Sustainable Development in Asia and the Pacific, including the implementation of RESAP. In that connection, UNDP was urged to extend its full support to regional cooperative projects on integrated applications of space technologies. The secretariat should, nevertheless, continue to seek the necessary supplementary support from traditional and non-traditional donors for operational activities initiated under RESAP.

148. The Commission recognized the importance and success of the regional cooperative mechanism established under RESAP, including the three-tier network consisting of the Intergovernmental Consultative Committee on RESAP, the four regional working groups on four sectors of space applications and the Regional Information Service and education networks. The sustainability of such a regional cooperative network depended on the full and continuous support of the participating countries, including TCDC support for the activities implemented under RESAP.

149. There was a need to prepare the region further for expanded and effective practical use of space

technologies for the twenty-first century. The Commission therefore requested the secretariat to take the necessary measures to initiate early preparation for the second Ministerial Conference on Space Applications for Sustainable Development in Asia and the Pacific, to be convened in 1999. The Commission stressed that the second Ministerial Conference should be prepared with a fresh new vision, taking into account the technological trends, opportunities and challenges of the new millennium.

150. The Commission expressed deep appreciation to the several donors, including UNDP, for their generous support for the implementation of RESAP. It also gratefully acknowledged the offer of several governments to provide support for the further implementation of RESAP by sharing expertise, facilities and information.

151. With regard to the implementation of the recommendations of the third Ministerial Conference on Environment and Development in Asia and the Pacific, held at Bangkok in 1995, the Commission stressed that in order to promote the implementation of the Regional Action Programme for Environmentally Sound and Sustainable Development, 1996-2000, initiatives should be taken to convert it into action projects in conformity with the diverse natural, social and economic conditions of the region, enabling countries to participate and benefit in the process. In that connection, the Commission noted that the expert group meeting on the implementation of the Regional Action Programme, which could not be organized earlier because of the unavailability of resources, would be held in May 1997. It urged member governments to provide full support for the development of regional and subregional projects to strengthen national capacity-building. The Commission further recognized that the implementing responsibility for the Regional Action Programme lay with national governments, which required assistance in enhancing their capabilities to promote and coordinate national action projects through national focal points.

152. The Commission considered information dissemination to be an important mechanism for facilitating technology transfer and capacity-building. It noted with interest the establishment of "EnviroNET Australia" on the Internet, which provided information on Australian environment technologies and services. It also noted with appreciation the proposed establishment of the Institute for Global Environmental Strategies in Japan, which would contribute to formulating a well-defined action strategy linking national and regional levels effectively for the implementation of the Regional Action Programme.

153. The Commission noted that the member countries had benefited from the catalytic activities of the ESCAP secretariat, such as projects for capacity-building, publication of guidelines for environmentally sound development, and regional advisory services. The secretariat should strengthen its activities by integrating environmental considerations into the overall programme of work of the Commission in various sectoral areas, and it should develop policy guidelines and procedures for environmental impact assessment of development projects.

154. The Commission recognized the inextricable link between population, the environment and sustainable development. There was a need for expanded and coordinated efforts through specialized research so as to bring about a sustainable relationship between population factors, resources and development. It urged governments to expand and strengthen mechanisms to coordinate environmental and population concerns into development policy-making and planning.

155. The Commission emphasized the importance of subregional cooperation to address environmental challenges and to pursue mutual advantages. It recommended that ESCAP, in coordination with other United Nations bodies and agencies, should enhance its role by attaching importance to the implementation of regional or subregional programmes and projects directed at strengthening national capacity. The active cooperation, coordination and participation of international and regional organizations and multilateral institutions were prerequisites to the successful implementation of the Regional Action Programme.

156. The Commission noted with appreciation the adoption of the Framework for the North-East Asian Subregional Programme of Environmental Cooperation, which it felt would be a milestone for the successful development of subregional environmental cooperation and would continue actively to promote the implementation of the projects already agreed. The Commission recommended that the secretariat should strengthen its efforts in the promotion of subregional cooperation in North-East Asia. The Commission adopted resolution 53/3 on the Framework for the North-East Asian Subregional Programme of Environmental Cooperation.

157. The Commission expressed the hope that appropriate financial resources at the regional level would be sought in order to promote national development efforts in implementing the Regional Action Programme. It recommended that the ESCAP secretariat and member countries should undertake to procure financial resources from GEF, UNDP, UNEP, ADB and the World Bank.

158. The Commission noted that raising the awareness of organizations in both the private and the public sectors was of vital importance. Governments should work closely with the business and private sectors and non-governmental organizations in order to realize the full capacity within a country to address national issues.

Emerging issues and developments relevant to the subprogramme

159. The Commission took note of the emerging issues and developments related to the social aspects of mining, the social dimensions of energy projects and the social dimension of urban environmental management for the region, as contained in document E/ESCAP/1054.

160. The Commission was informed that the increase in mining activities in the Asian and Pacific region, especially in remote areas of developing countries, had brought into focus the integration of social needs into mining ventures. It recognized that such a modality required an effective dialogue with local communities, government authorities, researchers, the private sector and non-governmental organizations.

161. The increased involvement of the private sector in mining in the region should be encouraged. Further, governments should act as catalysts so as to ensure the equitable distribution of wealth, the application of environmentally benign technologies to minimize degradation, the responsible use of land and mineral resources and the provision of adequate services and skills transfer to host communities and the private sector.

162. The mining laws of certain countries did not provide for equity flows to host communities, but only compensation for the use of land for mining. There was a need for periphery development leading to optimum employment and provision of utilities. It was important to encourage mineral developers to engage in dialogue with relevant stakeholders.

163. The Commission noted the need for assistance to member countries in examining new policy directions for harmonizing mining activities with the social, cultural and economic aspirations of host communities. The involvement of all stakeholders, namely, the private sector, host communities, governments and relevant non-governmental organizations, should be actively promoted.

164. The Commission noted the efforts of countries in addressing the environmental challenges associated with energy projects. It supported the view that the social dimension issues raised in document E/ESCAP/1054 deserved due attention. It generally agreed with the participatory approach suggested in the document to involve all stakeholders, and noted the interest of some countries in learning from the experience of others in that respect.

165. The resources available to governments were by no means sufficient to cope with the increasing environmental problems, for which community participation had become essential for environmentally sound and sustainable development. The establishment of databases with information on programmes related to public awareness and education targeted mainly at major stakeholders was considered useful.

166. Water pollution was among the major environmental problems in many cities of the region and large projects were required for protection of the water resources. Public awareness was considered by the Commission to be effective in dealing with urban environmental issues. It urged support for the activities in the field of the environment and urban geology for the sustainable development of fast-growing cities. It also supported the organization of regional workshops on multi-stakeholder involvement in environmental projects, and recommended that donors should support pilot projects for technical cooperation.

167. The Commission recommended that members and associate members should adopt policies, as appropriate, to bring together the private sector, community groups and non-governmental organizations to promote environmental management and sustainable development.

168. The Commission took note of the emphasis placed by the Habitat Agenda adopted by the United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II), held in Istanbul, Turkey, in 1996, on the development of partnerships of governments and local authorities with all stakeholders in human settlements development.

Poverty alleviation through economic growth and social development

169. The Commission had before it documents E/ESCAP/1055, E/ESCAP/1056 and E/ESCAP/1057 and Corr.1, relating to poverty alleviation through economic growth and social development. It endorsed the recommendations contained in those documents.

170. The Commission recommended that ESCAP should continue to assist governments in the implementation of the Agenda for Action on Social Development in the ESCAP Region. Such assistance should be directed to the enhancement of social development policies and programmes in the following priority areas: allocation of funds in national budgets and mobilization of funds from international donors to strengthen social services; encouragement of private sector contributions; institutional capacity-building for enhancing people's access to productive resources; and greater participation by people in poverty eradication programmes. Furthermore, support to governments should be strengthened in the targeting of programmes for such objectives as social protection for the poor, and in the decentralization of the social sector through such means as partnership with local-level organizations.

171. The Commission recommended that the secretariat should assist governments in devising an integrated and holistic approach to poverty alleviation, especially through studies on the social impact of development projects.

172. The Commission recommended that ESCAP should adopt a regional strategy or programme of action on poverty alleviation with specific objectives, goals and targets, so that all members and associate members could be better equipped to face the challenges of the twenty-first century.

173. In the light of the pivotal coordinating role of the secretariat in facilitating the regional implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action of the Fourth World Conference on Women, held in Beijing in 1995, the Commission recommended the integration of women's issues into each of its subprogrammes and encouraged the secretariat to continue to mainstream gender perspectives in all its policies and programmes without marginalizing the women's sector in the process of the United Nations reforms.

174. The Commission requested the secretariat to intensify its human resources development work by promoting education and training as well as employment creation for the rural and urban poor, women, youth and other marginalized social groups.

175. The Commission called upon the secretariat to promote the human resources development of national personnel, particularly those in the least developed and landlocked countries, through training to enhance their skills in the planning and implementation of social services for the poor.

176. The Commission requested the secretariat to assist countries, particularly the least developed and landlocked countries, in the formulation of national youth policies and programmes, focusing on skills development and productive employment for youth. It adopted resolution 53/4 on the elimination of sexual abuse and sexual exploitation of children and youth in Asia and the Pacific.

177. The Commission requested the secretariat to explore specific means of assisting the region's developing countries in promoting multisectoral collaboration towards fulfilment of the targets of the Agenda for Action for the Asian and Pacific Decade of Disabled Persons, 1993-2002. Particular attention should be given to the means of removing attitudinal barriers as well as promoting coordination to achieve intrasectoral and intersectoral collaboration in that endeavour.

178. The Commission requested the secretariat to strengthen its technical assistance to developing members and associate members through TCDC and other activities to disseminate widely the experience of ongoing activities on the implementation of regional guidelines for the promotion of non-handicapping environments for disabled and elderly persons.

179. The Commission recommended that the secretariat should carry out research on the root causes of poverty and conduct intercountry policy analysis of various poverty alleviation strategies, an area in which it had a comparative advantage.

180. The Commission urged the secretariat to implement activities in support of rural poverty alleviation, as well as to facilitate the sharing of experience and learning from the success of member countries.

Main issues related to poverty alleviation

181. While rapid economic growth had helped to reduce the level of absolute poverty, it had caused income distribution to worsen in some countries, and exacerbated regional disparities. Moreover, it had not necessarily resulted in concomitant social development.

182. A holistic approach emphasizing rural-urban linkages was required in order to alleviate poverty. Human resources development and employment generation were key strategies. It was important to reduce income inequalities between regions of a country and between urban and rural areas.

183. Rural-to-urban migration and urbanization were closely linked to economic development. Policies were needed to deal appropriately with those phenomena. Decentralization of certain government functions would promote the development of rural and remote areas. The issue of governance had to be addressed in local governments of large and medium-sized cities and small towns in order to enhance the quality of life and employment opportunities in both rural and urban areas.

184. In order to pursue a holistic approach to poverty alleviation, it was necessary to follow an integrated planning approach that involved relevant government agencies, non-governmental organizations and the private sector.

185. The task of poverty alleviation remained a central social development concern in the region. While poverty alleviation and social security schemes must be tailored to national circumstances, governments in all countries had an important role to play, including service provision and the delivery of income support systems. The Commission recognized the responsibility of civil society and the need for governments to mobilize and encourage all social forces, individuals, enterprises, grass-roots organizations and non-governmental organizations to design and implement poverty alleviation programmes and activities.

186. The Commission highlighted human resources development as a strategy for combating poverty in the region. The promotion of human resources development through education and skills development, the creation of productive employment opportunities and income generation, and the enhancement of access to social services, including health care, were essential features of national poverty alleviation programmes. The Commission held the view that ESCAP should devote particular attention to promoting the skills development of the poor, women and youth, particularly those in the least developed and landlocked countries. It drew attention to the issue of youth unemployment, which in some countries was four times higher than non-youth unemployment. The mismatch between the education and skill levels of young entrants to the labour market and the requirements of employers was cited as a factor influencing the situation.

187. The Commission urged that rural development programmes be targeted at rural disadvantaged groups, growth-oriented programmes with immediate impact on rural poverty, and development of infrastructure to bring the rural poor into the mainstream of market-based development. Access by the poor to rural credit, particularly micro-credit, and a participatory approach to rural development, including integrated rural development programmes, were critical elements in that regard. An appropriate policy for redistributing income was to decentralize development activities to rural areas and to promote popular participation in development efforts through community empowerment.

188. Other important programmes for increasing income and improving the quality of life in rural areas were integrated agriculture development schemes, land development, rural industrialization and rural infrastructure development. Increased access to markets and services, including health and education, through the construction of rural roads, bridges and inland waterway facilities would decrease the isolation of villages and directly improve the quality of life in rural areas.

189. The Commission commended CITYNET and ESCAP on their contributions to strengthening local authorities through training and exchange of expertise. It welcomed the gradual involvement of the private sector in shelter provision for the poor and in civic services.

190. Improved access of the poor to science and technology could not only improve their income- and employment-generation opportunities but also contribute to overall improvements in productivity and technological development, particularly in rural areas. The Commission requested the secretariat to place due emphasis on technology promotion and skills development programmes for poverty alleviation, particularly for the least developed and island developing countries. Rural industrialization would also assist in bringing the rural poor into the mainstream of the development process.

191. Policy planning depended on reliable and accurate statistical information. To measure trends in poverty, migration and urbanization, there was a need to improve the research and statistical analysis methods in the region. Some member countries with advanced capacity in data collection, statistical analysis and policy planning expressed willingness to assist others in those areas.

192. Many governments underlined the cross-sectoral nature of disability issues. They drew attention to their pursuance of a multisectoral approach to mainstreaming people with disabilities into the agenda for development. The Commission noted that efforts were under way to protect the rights of people with disabilities through comprehensive legislation, to incorporate the access needs of people with disabilities in urban development and local government, to include disabled persons in small-scale poverty alleviation projects, and to involve diverse government ministries in Decade-related awareness-raising and capacity-building.

193. The attention of the Commission was drawn to the need for special measures targeted at alleviating poverty among disadvantaged groups. It was felt that such measures should be decentralized and should include literacy campaigns and income-generation training programmes. The Commission endorsed the secretariat's support of national activities on community-based prevention of juvenile delinquency.

Progress in the implementation of resolutions and decisions

Resolution 48/3 of 24 April 1992 on the Asian and Pacific Decade of Disabled Persons, 1993-2002

194. In pursuance of Commission resolution 48/3, the secretariat had provided assistance in the following: strengthening of organizations of people with disabilities and promoting their participation in the development process; including gender dimensions in the implementation of the Agenda for Action for the Asian and Pacific Decade of Disabled Persons; implementing ESCAP Guidelines for the Promotion of Non-handicapping Environments for Disabled Persons; preparing a regional publication on indigenous production and distribution of devices to assist people with disabilities; and providing secretariat services to facilitate the Decade-focused work of the RICAP Subcommittee on Disability-related Concerns.

195. The Government of the Republic of Korea welcomed the active participation and cooperation of all members and associate members in the Meeting of Senior Officials to Mark the Mid-point of the Asian and

Pacific Decade of Disabled Persons, to be held at Seoul from 26 to 29 September 1997. The Meeting would be organized in the context of the 1997 Seoul International Conference on Disability, to be held from 24 to 29 September 1997.

Resolution 50/3 of 13 April 1994 on participatory human settlements development

196. The Commission noted with satisfaction the activities undertaken by member countries and the secretariat in pursuance of Commission resolution 50/3, and recognized the need for a complementary set of policies to address the effect of urbanization, which would involve the broad spectrum of civil society in partnership with government.

Resolution 51/2 of 1 May 1995 on strengthening regional cooperation in human resources development in Asia and the Pacific

197. The Commission reviewed the work of the secretariat in implementation of Commission resolution 51/2. The secretariat had initiated a regional network of national centres of excellence for human resources development research and training; enhanced the capacity of national and local organizations to provide literacy training for women; highlighted human resources development as a strategy to alleviate poverty in the medium-term plan for the period 1998-2001; and convened the Expert Group Meeting to Review Phase III of the Jakarta Plan of Action on Human Resources Development in the ESCAP Region, at Bangkok in March 1997.

Resolution 51/4 of 1 May 1995 on the Agenda for Action on Social Development in the ESCAP Region

198. The Commission noted with satisfaction the progress made by the secretariat in the implementation of Commission resolution 51/4 in the context of the Programme of Action of the World Summit for Social Development. It welcomed with appreciation the offer of the Government of the Philippines to host the Fifth Asian and Pacific Ministerial Conference on Social Development in Manila from 5 to 11 November 1997. The Conference would review and assess the progress of national and regional efforts towards attaining the goals and targets of the Agenda for Action on Social Development in the ESCAP Region, and it would consider the means of enhancing regional cooperation in support of the regional Agenda for Action. The Commission also expressed appreciation of the assistance which the secretariat provided to various countries through advisory missions and national workshops to catalyse the formulation of national action plans for the implementation of the regional Agenda for Action, as well as national preparations for participation in the Ministerial Conference. The Commission also emphasized the role of non-governmental organizations as partners in the implementation of welfare and development programmes.

199. The Commission noted that many governments had initiated various innovative actions towards implementing the specific time-bound goals and targets contained in the Agenda for Action on Social Development in the ESCAP Region.

Resolution 51/7 of 1 May 1995 on the implementation of the Jakarta Declaration and Plan of Action for the Advancement of Women in Asia and the Pacific

200. The Commission commended the secretariat on the many activities which it had carried out in the implementation of the Jakarta Declaration and Plan of Action for the Advancement of Women in Asia and the Pacific, which recognized that effective participation by women in all areas of social and economic development was essential to the attainment of national development goals and objectives, including the eradication of poverty.

Resolution 52/3 of 24 April 1996 on follow-up to the Fourth World Conference on Women

201. The Commission commended the action taken by the secretariat in implementing the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action of the Fourth World Conference on Women. It noted that many members and associate members had been implementing those instruments. Action taken included adopting national plans of action, ratifying the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women, promulgating and enforcing legislation, creating a women's development fund, establishing women's information centres, implementing rural development schemes for women, educating the poor, especially girls and illiterate women, through special schemes and programmes, and other programmes to promote women's empowerment, such as micro-credit and income-generation schemes. The Commission adopted resolution 53/2 on implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action for the advancement of women.

Resolution 52/4 of 24 April 1996 on promoting human resources development among youth in Asia and the Pacific

202. The Commission reviewed the work of the secretariat in implementing Commission resolution 52/4. The secretariat had convened, in cooperation with the Government of China, UNFPA and the Christian Conference of Asia, the Asia-Pacific Meeting on Human Resources Development for Youth, in Beijing in October 1996; conducted a regional survey of the youth situation, policies and programmes; provided advisory services in the formulation of national youth policy

frameworks to countries in the Greater Mekong subregion; and conducted national training programmes for youth work personnel in countries of the subregion.

Resolution 52/5 of 24 April 1996 on regional co-operation in response to the spread and consequences of the human immunodeficiency virus/acquired immune deficiency syndrome in the Asian and Pacific region

203. The Commission noted with appreciation the progress that had been made in implementing Commission resolution 52/5. It stressed the necessity for cross-border collaboration in the field of HIV/AIDS prevention, including the development of an area-specific information system and effective community-based prevention strategies. It suggested that cross-border collaboration should also be promoted for the prevention of communicable diseases other than HIV/AIDS.

Regional Coordination Centre for Research and Development of Coarse Grains, Pulses, Roots and Tuber Crops in the Humid Tropics of Asia and the Pacific

204. The Commission recommended that, in order to enhance the effectiveness of activities in poverty alleviation, the collaborative programme activities of the Centre should be strengthened by forming an intimate network with national, regional and international agricultural research and development institutes and organizations.

205. The Commission further recommended that the Centre should undertake research and development activities related to agricultural diversification, the sustainability of upland agriculture, market development of upland crops and the effects of trade liberalization on agriculture, and thus contribute to poverty alleviation in rural areas in the region. A number of suggestions were made that horticultural and such other crops as maize, soyabeans and sorghum should be included in the work programme of the Centre.

206. The Commission urged the Centre to continue activities within the framework of the human resources development and information services programme, particularly convening workshops and training courses for disseminating and transmitting information and methodologies for socio-economic studies and policy formulation in agriculture.

207. In its discussion of the Centre's report, the Commission noted that the collaborative research and development projects of the Centre, covering a broad range of issues concerning agricultural diversification, the sustainability of upland agriculture, market prospects and women's role in agricultural development, had been found useful.

208. The Commission recognized the importance of the Centre's activities, which focused mainly on addressing the poverty concerns of small farming communities in the region, and noted the steady expansion of the programme activities and the gradual increase in the programme resources of the Centre in recent years. In order to retain the poverty alleviation focus of the Centre, further efforts might be made to involve the least developed ESCAP members and associate members in the Centre's activities.

209. The Commission expressed special concern over the continuing fragile condition of the institutional support resources. A substantial increase in the contributions of members and associate members was needed, as well as timely payment of such contributions.

210. It also called for further strengthening of programme resources and their timely allocation, and the provision of the services of experts by governments, donor agencies and partner institutes, preferably in the form of non-reimbursable loans, so as to ensure the continuity and effective implementation of programme activities.

211. The Commission expressed appreciation of the contributions, in cash or in kind, or both, received from the Governments of Austria, Bangladesh, France, India, Indonesia, Japan, Myanmar, Nepal, the Netherlands, Pakistan, Papua New Guinea, the Philippines, the Republic of Korea, Sri Lanka, Thailand and Viet Nam. Special appreciation was expressed of the commencement of the in-cash contribution by the Government of Pakistan and the increases announced by the Governments of India, Papua New Guinea and Viet Nam.

212. The Commission elected the following countries as members of the Governing Board of the CGPRT Centre for a three-year term: Bangladesh, France, India, Japan, Myanmar, Papua New Guinea, Philippines, Republic of Korea, Sri Lanka and Thailand, in addition to Indonesia as the host Government.

Transport and communications

213. The Commission had before it documents E/ESCAP/1058, E/ESCAP/1059 and E/ESCAP/1060.

Transport, communications and infrastructure development

214. The Commission noted with appreciation the significant achievements made through the implementation of the regional action programme during the Transport and Communications Decade for Asia and the Pacific, 1985-1996, with the active participation of member countries. It also recognized the important contributions made by the donors and implementing agencies.

215. The Commission expressed satisfaction with the evaluation of the Decade undertaken by the secretariat and endorsed the recommendations contained in document E/ESCAP/1059, including those designed to assist in the effective implementation of the New Delhi Action Plan on Infrastructure Development in Asia and the Pacific. It strongly urged the secretariat to keep in view, during the implementation of the New Delhi Action Plan, the lessons learned from the implementation of the Decade.

216. To ensure greater involvement, ownership and commitment by member governments, the projects under the regional action programme of the New Delhi Action Plan should be implemented involving selected countries which had a matching national project or activity fitting within the objectives of regional projects.

217. The Commission agreed that the implementing agencies should have the responsibility for implementing only the regional action programme of the New Delhi Action Plan, whereas individual member governments should shoulder the responsibility for formulating, implementing and monitoring projects and activities to be carried out under the New Delhi Action Plan at the country level within the framework of national infrastructure development programmes. Technical assistance might be provided by the relevant specialized agencies.

218. The Commission proposed that annual reviews of the New Delhi Action Plan, its regional action programme and associated project activities at the country level should be carried out under the auspices of subregional organizations, with the assistance of ESCAP and concerned implementing agencies. It requested the secretariats of subregional organizations to include that as a standing item in the agenda of their appropriate meetings, as long as it did not affect the mandates of those organizations.

219. The Commission recognized the effective inter-agency cooperation in the implementation of the regional action programme for the Decade. It reiterated its support for the continuation of inter-agency cooperation and coordination through the RICAP Subcommittee on Infrastructure Development for the implementation of the New Delhi Action Plan.

220. The Commission held the view that the secretariat should convene annual meetings of donor countries and funding agencies, together with implementing agencies, to review periodically the resource situation for the implementation of the New Delhi Action Plan. The delegation of Fiji proposed that one such meeting should be convened in one of the Pacific island countries.

221. The Commission expressed concern over the reduced level of financial support for the implementation of the regional action programme for the Decade, and urged UNDP, other international organizations and agencies and all countries actively to support and give high priority to the New Delhi Action Plan in their assistance programmes.

222. Increases in the quantity and quality of infrastructure facilities and services were lagging behind economic growth, and consequently infrastructure bottlenecks continued to be major impediments to economic and social development in the ESCAP region. A number of delegations noted that they had adopted policies of expanding and deepening their external trade and encouraging foreign investment, and that physical infrastructure was essential to achieving those policy goals. It was also noted that the need for the development of transport and communications infrastructure ranked high in the priorities for growth zone development initiatives, including the Bangladesh-Bhutan-India-Nepal growth quadrangle.

223. The Commission fully supported the findings of the Ministerial Conference on Infrastructure, held at New Delhi in October 1996, and endorsed its recommendations, as contained in document E/ESCAP/1058.

224. The Commission fully supported the New Delhi Declaration on Infrastructure Development in Asia and the Pacific adopted by the Ministerial Conference, and endorsed the set of 64 operational activities for phase I (1997-2001) of the regional action programme that had been approved by the Conference.

225. In response to the secretariat's request for the establishment of focal points for infrastructure development and the identification of priority projects, some delegations indicated their governments' priorities from the approved set of 64 projects under the regional action programme, while others informed the Commission that the requested information would be communicated to the secretariat as soon as possible.

226. The Commission reiterated its strong support for the ALTID project as a priority item in the regional action programme of the New Delhi Action Plan and its commitment in the context of Commission resolution 52/9 of 24 April 1996 on intra-Asia and Asia-Europe land bridges.

227. In the light of the satisfactory progress made in the implementation of the ALTID project in 1994-1996, it was felt that in the future attention should be focused on implementation of the following activities: (a) completion of the formulation of the Asian Highway and Trans-Asian Railway networks covering the whole of Asia, as well as completion of the missing links; (b) formalization of the networks through ESCAP

agreements on Asian Highway and Trans-Asian Railway routes/networks; and (c) increasing emphasis on improvement of the operational efficiency of the routes, including transport logistics.

228. The Commission recommended that the following projects and activities should be carried out as soon as possible: (a) a project organized by ESCAP and the Organization of Railways Cooperation on the development of a container transport demonstration project in the northern corridor of the Trans-Asian Railway routes; (b) a detailed study on Trans-Asian Railway development in the southern corridor of the Asia-Europe routes; (c) studies on the road network linking China, Kazakstan, Mongolia, the Russian Federation and the Korean Peninsula; (d) identification of the Asian Highway network in Turkey; (e) studies on Trans-Asian Railway development in north-south corridors (i) between South-East Asia and North-East Asia and (ii) in northern Europe-Russian Federation-Central Asia-Islamic Republic of Iran; (f) an ongoing study on land transport corridors between Central Asia and Europe, including the corridor across the Caspian Sea to Azerbaijan and then to Europe; and (g) operationalization of the New Silk Railway, China-Central Asia-Islamic Republic of Iran-Turkey-Europe, made possible by the completion in 1996 of the missing link between the Islamic Republic of Iran and Turkmenistan. The importance of developing national programmes in support of the ALTID project was also stressed.

229. Noting the progress in the implementation of Commission resolution 48/11 of 23 April 1992 on road and rail transport modes in relation to facilitation measures, particularly in the landlocked countries of Central Asia, the Commission urged all other countries to consider the possibility, if they had not yet done so, of becoming a party to the conventions listed in the resolution. The progress made in accession by China and the Republic of Korea was noted. The Commission strongly recommended that the secretariat should continue its assistance in the area of transport facilitation, through subregional seminars, national workshops and advisory services. It requested that transit facilities to least developed and landlocked countries should be accorded high priority and that every possible endeavour should be made to increase transit facilities, due account being taken of the legitimate concerns and interests of transit countries.

230. In accordance with the implementation strategy for the ALTID project, the Commission recommended that the action plan for the implementation of phase III (1998-1999) of the project should be considered by the Committee on Transport and Communications at its third session, to be held in December 1997.

231. Recognizing the importance of sustainable transport development, the Commission requested that the secretariat should provide assistance to member countries on the development of a comprehensive, integrated and interactive approach to policy development in traffic, transport and infrastructure aimed at sustainable transport, enhancing economic growth, controlling mobility and preserving nature and the environment.

232. The Commission welcomed the establishment of the Asia Infrastructure Development Alliance (AIDA) and recognized that collaboration between the public sector, the private sector and multilateral and intergovernmental agencies would contribute to enhancing private sector involvement and the accelerated development of infrastructure in member countries. In order to make AIDA more effective, the Commission requested that the ESCAP secretariat should play an active role in its functioning and take appropriate steps to encourage more countries to join the Alliance. The Commission was apprised of the public and private sector dialogues currently being undertaken in the Philippines, which were designed to address the issues impeding private sector participation in infrastructure development and transport in particular. That initiative was deemed to be in consonance with the launching of AIDA and highlighted the importance that member countries attached to the establishment of public/private partnerships for infrastructure development. The Commission noted the need for assistance from the secretariat if member countries were to create appropriate and responsive legislative and regulatory frameworks for public/private sector partnerships.

233. The Commission noted the increasing commitment of member governments towards creating a more commercial environment in the transport sector through the adoption of management and operational approaches to enhance productivity, and by exploring potential areas in which the private sector might be able to play a more significant role. In that respect, it noted a request for ESCAP assistance in organizing a country-level seminar in the Islamic Republic of Iran on commercialization and private sector involvement in ports. It also noted the request of the delegation of the Russian Federation for the development of seaport cooperation in North-East Asia, including participation of the private sector.

234. There was a need to accord high priority to the development of inland water transport and coastal shipping, owing to their cost-effectiveness and environmental advantages. It was also important to address the issues of maritime safety and marine pollution.

235. The Pacific island delegations registered their appreciation of the recent study and seminar given by the secretariat on the formulation of a regional policy for the replacement of ageing ships in Pacific island fleets. The Commission noted that activities related to

fleet planning for Pacific island countries were of particular interest and noted the request of those countries for assistance in human resources development and the implementation of recommendations related to the replacement of ageing ships and commercialization of infrastructure activities.

236. In the area of transport and communications interventions designed to alleviate poverty and improve standards of living, the Commission noted that the secretariat projects on participatory planning of rural infrastructure and integration of non-motorized transport into urban transport systems provided the potential for increased income generation as well as access to economic and social services, thereby contributing to poverty alleviation. It requested the secretariat to continue providing assistance to cluster countries and cities in those areas.

237. The Commission welcomed the preparation of a "Green Paper for telecommunications in the Asian and Pacific region". It noted that India and the Islamic Republic of Iran were considering the possibility of providing host facilities for an Asia-Pacific telecommunications standards institute and that APT and ITU were carrying out a study on its establishment. One delegation, however, questioned the need for such an institute, noting that it would prefer to see the promotion of standardization within the region carried out through such organizations as APT.

238. The Commission recognized that it would be useful for the secretariat to develop a special training programme in the field of infrastructure for the developing countries of the region. The Russian Federation offered its training facilities for such an activity.

239. The Commission took note of the offer of the Russian Federation to participate in the development of an Asian Highway database, and to provide experts in land transport and transport facilitation, and its interest in the participation of the joint ESCAP/ECE Special Programme for the Economies of Central Asia. The offer of the Russian Federation to provide an expert to assist in the development of an ESCAP Asian Highway agreement and its readiness to consider the possibility of organizing an ESCAP seminar on break-of-gauge problems in the Russian Federation were noted with appreciation.

240. The Commission noted with appreciation the regional inland water transport training of trainers course and seminar on freight forwarding, which had been hosted by China. It welcomed the generous offer of China to continue to host activities and to consider providing expert services in the areas of sea-freight transport, inland water transport, waterway management and highway construction for the benefit of other countries.

241. Information concerning progress made in the implementation of ALTID-related projects in China, the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, India, Indonesia, the Lao People's Democratic Republic, the Russian Federation, Thailand and Turkey was noted. The secretariat was requested to update regularly the progress made in the implementation of ALTID-related projects. A request from Bangladesh to include a highway link to Myanmar through Chittagong in the Asian Highway network was noted and also a request from the Russian Federation to include the Asian Highway network in its country in future Asian Highway maps published by ESCAP.

242. Comments by the Islamic Republic of Iran on the draft Trans-Asian Railway map, including incorporation of the links Tehran-Emam Khomeini Port, Tehran-Garmsar-Sari-Turkmen Port, and Tehran-Khorramshahr, were also noted for necessary action by the secretariat. A request from India for expeditious finalization of the Trans-Asian Railway map was noted, including the suggestion that the link between Bangladesh and Myanmar might be established through the north-eastern part of India to facilitate trade.

243. One delegation questioned the usefulness of lengthy statements made by a number of delegations detailing domestic developments since the previous session. The secretariat explained that the summary of those statements provided in the report was a useful source of reference material for a number of members of the Commission.

244. The Commission noted the information provided by the representative of ICAO on its roles and responsibilities in improving the safety, security, efficiency and regularity of air transport, and welcomed the offer of that organization to extend technical assistance to the developing countries in the Asian and Pacific region to enable them to achieve sustainable civil aviation development.

245. The representative of APT apprised the Commission of its close collaboration with ESCAP during the Decade and its active involvement in the formulation and implementation of the New Delhi Action Plan. The Commission was also informed of the APT partnership with ITU in undertaking joint activities for the development of telecommunications in the Asian and Pacific region.

246. The Commission took note of the activities implemented by UPU within the framework of the Decade, and the two projects that were proposed under the New Delhi Action Plan. The representative of UPU requested that the Commission should accord high priority to the development of postal services, which provided the least costly form of communications in rural areas.

247. The representative of the Asian-Pacific Postal Union expressed appreciation of the inclusion of two postal projects under the New Delhi Action Plan, and informed the Commission that both projects were most beneficial and responded to the needs of member countries.

248. The Commission noted with interest that the secretariat had been providing a unique training opportunity for personnel from the freight-forwarding industry of the region which had resulted in significant upgrading of capabilities. It welcomed the offer of the International Federation of Freight Forwarders Associations to continue to collaborate with the secretariat in the implementation of activities.

Tourism

249. The Commission reaffirmed the important role of tourism in the socio-economic development of the Asian and Pacific region and endorsed the recommendations and decisions of the Intergovernmental Meeting on Tourism Development contained in document E/ESCAP/1060. It took note of the suggestion that the recommendations and decisions of the Meeting should be translated into a plan of action to provide a framework for member countries to cooperate effectively and promote tourism. It supported the Meeting's view that tourism should be given high priority in the ESCAP programme and that tourism should be included in the title of the subprogramme on transport and communications. Two delegations expressed some reservations on that issue. Referring to the decision of the Commission at its fifty-second session to expand Professional regular staff resources for tourism activities and to upgrade the existing post for tourism, the Commission was pleased to note that appropriate action was being taken by the secretariat to strengthen the Tourism Unit.

250. Stressing the importance of an integrated approach to developing tourism, the Commission strongly supported activities to promote sustainable tourism development and requested the secretariat to place special emphasis on activities related to the economic impact of tourism, environmental management of tourism development, infrastructure development and investment, as well as human resources development in the tourism sector, facilitation of travel for the expansion of intraregional tourism, and regional and subregional promotion of tourism, with specific emphasis on areas that were not dealt with adequately by other organizations involved in tourism.

251. Environmental management of tourism development was particularly important and the Commission requested that the secretariat should strengthen related activities. It noted with interest that Malaysia had completed a long-term plan on ecotourism development and recommended that ESCAP should, in collaboration with the World Tourism Organization, assist in creating awareness among other member countries of the need to formulate similar plans to protect and preserve the environment while promoting tourism. The Commission stressed the importance of promoting ecotourism and tourism linked to historical and cultural heritage.

252. The Commission expressed appreciation of the efforts of the secretariat to promote tourism in the Greater Mekong subregion, in close cooperation with ADB, and noted that the Fifth Meeting of the Working Group on the Greater Mekong Subregion Tourism Sector would be organized jointly by ESCAP and ADB and held at Chiang Rai, Thailand, in May 1997. It noted that the Agency for Coordinating Mekong Tourism Activities had been established within the Tourism Authority of Thailand. The progress of the survey on tourism attractions along the Asian Highway was also noted.

253. The secretariat was requested to pay particular attention to the specific needs of countries in an early stage of tourism development, as well as Pacific island countries. The Commission noted the request of Mongolia that a national seminar on sustainable tourism development should be organized by ESCAP in Ulaanbaatar, as well as that of Pakistan for assistance in the conduct of a study on tourism investment and another on the impact of tourism on employment. The Commission was pleased to note that many countries had benefited from the Seminar on Tourism Promotion in Countries in an Early Stage of Tourism Development, held at Ho Chi Minh City, Viet Nam, in November 1996. As recommended by the Seminar, the Commission requested that the secretariat should strengthen its catalytic role in promoting TCDC in the field of tourism. The availability of experts from Thailand in various areas, including tourism marketing, human resources development, research and planning, was noted with appreciation.

254. The Commission strongly supported the secretariat's initiatives to network tourism training institutes and organizations and noted with appreciation the confirmation of the Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran that it would host a meeting on networking of tourism training institutes and organizations in the Asian and Pacific region at Tehran in September 1997. An inventory of tourism training institutes and organizations should be updated before being finalized for publication and distribution.

255. The Commission was pleased to note that ESCAP had maintained excellent working relationships with the World Tourism Organization, the Tourism Council of the South Pacific, the Pacific Asia Travel Association, ADB and other organizations involved in

tourism. It recognized that the activities of ESCAP and of those organizations complemented each other. Such complementarity of activities was important because most of the organizations faced financial and other constraints. The Commission requested that the secretariat should further strengthen its excellent working relationships with the World Tourism Organization and other organizations involved in tourism to avoid duplication of effort.

256. The Commission expressed appreciation to those donors that had been supporting the transport, communications and tourism programmes in recent years, namely China, France, Germany, India, Japan, the Netherlands and the Republic of Korea, as well as UNDP, the World Bank and ADB. It also expressed appreciation to the Governments of Germany, Japan and the Republic of Korea for providing experts on a non-reimbursable loan basis.

257. The Commission urged donors to provide funding support for the implementation of the regional action programme of the New Delhi Action Plan on Infrastructure Development in Asia and the Pacific, particularly those activities which were prioritized by member countries out of the 64 activities. In that respect, the Commission noted with appreciation the suggestion of India that the amount of US$ 144,000 remaining in its budget for the Ministerial Conference could be used for some priority projects, *inter alia* under the regional action programme.

258. The Commission agreed that the Committee on Transport and Communications should be renamed the "Committee on Transport, Communications, Tourism and Infrastructure Development".

Statistics

259. The Commission had before it the report of the Committee on Statistics on its tenth session (E/ESCAP/1061), and the report on the Statistical Institute for Asia and the Pacific (E/ESCAP/1062).

260. It noted the report of the Committee, and endorsed its conclusions and recommendations. The Committee had highlighted many important statistical issues and activities, and the Commission appreciated its valuable efforts to develop statistical capabilities in the region.

261. The Committee and its Working Group of Statistical Experts had had extensive discussions on the terms of reference of the Committee, and the text in document E/ESCAP/1061 had been substantially incorporated in Commission resolution 53/1 of 30 April 1997 on restructuring the conference structure of the Commission. The Commission endorsed the strengthening of the Committee's institutional structure, including the adoption of the new terms of reference for its bureau, and noted with satisfaction its endeavours to intensify its interaction with the United Nations Statistical Commission.

262. In order to promote the effective utilization of data in policy analysis and formulation, statisticians and key users of statistics needed to form close working relationships. The Commission appreciated the emphasis placed by the Committee on the importance of users' confidence in official statistics, and observed that the reliability of statistics was a crucial factor for policy-making and research purposes. It noted the efforts by several member countries to increase users' confidence through enhancement in statistical methodologies and improvement in the timeliness of data.

263. The Commission noted that the secretariat's operational activities in statistics, including technical meetings, advisory services and methodological publications, had played an important role in enhancing the national statistical capacity of developing countries. It was suggested that while the existing modalities of technical cooperation were valid, the design of specific activities should also take into account the shifting priorities and requirements in the countries of the region.

264. The Commission endorsed the recommendation made by the Working Group of Statistical Experts at its ninth session that the scope and pace of implementation of the 1993 System of National Accounts should depend on national needs and capabilities. Many countries had initiated work on the 1993 SNA, which nevertheless could take several years to implement in its totality. The Commission took note of the shortage of personnel trained in national accounts in some countries, and welcomed the efforts of the secretariat to develop project proposals for subregional training workshops for middle-level statisticians on the concepts and application of the System. It appealed to donor countries and multilateral agencies to provide financial support for the proposals, and welcomed the offer of the Russian Federation to provide experts to participate in national accounts activities relevant to the economies in transition.

265. The Commission noted the efforts initiated by many countries of the region to improve social statistics and indicators, including the conduct of population censuses and new surveys concerning the informal sector, time use and home workers. Greater attention had also been paid to the improvement of statistics for poverty estimation through such measures as the revision of concepts and the development of poverty lines reflecting the real situation of the people. The Commission concurred with the Committee's observation that the definition and measurement of poverty were country-specific; efforts should therefore

be focused on providing national policy makers with relevant, high-quality information rather than on formulating internationally comparable definitions. The Commission noted that the Minimum National Social Data Set, which was narrowly focused on the outcomes of various global conferences, did not provide a comprehensive social data set. It recalled the emphasis placed by the Committee on the development of national social statistics infrastructure.

266. The Commission noted that the demand for gender-disaggregated data had escalated, as the data were increasingly considered indispensable for measuring socio-economic development and the effects of government policies on the lives of men and women. A number of countries had initiated or undertaken activities to improve gender statistics. Several countries reported their successful experience with the implementation of the secretariat project on improving statistics on gender issues, under which popular booklets, both in English and in national languages, had been produced. Some countries also reported that, in their recent publications and survey data collections, greater attention had been paid to gender-related topics. The Commission noted that many countries needed technical assistance and guidelines to make their efforts to improve gender statistics more effective.

267. The Commission concurred with the importance accorded by the Committee to environment statistics, and noted that some countries in the region had been compiling statistics for assessing environmental degradation and monitoring environmental protection expenditure. It also noted the importance of linking natural resources and economic accounting, and recommended that ESCAP should work closely with agencies outside the region to promote environment statistics, particularly through regular training seminars and the exchange of data.

268. The Commission reaffirmed its support for the development of the ESCAP Statistical Information System (ESIS) as a key regional repository for reliable and comparable economic and social data, and urged the secretariat to allocate resources for making the System operational and accessible to member countries as soon as possible. Linking ESIS with similar national statistical information systems could facilitate the dissemination of data in the region. Noting that the ESCAP World Wide Web site was about to be launched, the Commission urged the secretariat to use it actively for disseminating statistical information, documents and data.

269. The Commission stressed the fundamental importance of information technology in the work of national statistical offices and was convinced that it provided one of the most cost-effective ways to improve the collection of reliable and disaggregated data. The adoption of the latest technology was, however, severely hampered in many countries by the unavailability of skilled personnel. The Commission therefore urged the secretariat and SIAP to provide more training and advice on information technology applications in statistics to supplement national human resources development efforts.

270. The Commission concurred fully with the programme of work, 1998-1999 priorities identified by the Committee on Statistics. Those included implementation of the 1993 SNA, work on the statistical implications of the global social conferences, statistics on services, price statistics, environment statistics, and statistics on the informal sector. The Commission underlined the importance of the Committee's role in promoting close coordination of all aspects of the statistical activities of specialized agencies, relevant United Nations bodies and other international organizations in the region. Particular attention was drawn to the need for the secretariat and SPC to liaise closely on the coordination of technical assistance in statistics among Pacific island countries.

271. The Commission noted with gratitude that, since the fifty-second session, the secretariat had received generous bilateral donor assistance for its operational activities in statistics from the Governments of Japan, the Netherlands, the Republic of Korea and Sweden. Substantial multilateral assistance had been provided by UNFPA, UNIFEM and the World Bank.

Statistical Institute for Asia and the Pacific

272. In discussing the report on SIAP (E/ESCAP/1062), the Commission welcomed the Governing Board's endorsement of the recommendations of the task force in respect of the future direction of SIAP for the next phase of its activities. It noted that changes to and restructuring of the programme of the Institute in Tokyo should be implemented gradually over a period of two to three years and within the period of the long-term programme of work (1995-2000).

273. The Commission appreciated the steps that had been taken to hold discussions with the host Government with a view to restructuring the curriculum of the Tokyo-based courses gradually. Action had also been taken to strengthen and develop partnerships with countries through collaboration with statistical training institutes and training units within governments, and with international, regional and subregional organizations. Discussions to mobilize resources and support for new training initiatives had also been held with a large number of bilateral and multilateral agencies. The Commission welcomed the fact that missions had been undertaken, or were planned, to several countries in the region in order to mobilize resources and work out modalities for cooperation.

274. The Commission expressed gratitude to SIAP for its training programmes and activities. It recognized that one major problem faced by a number of national statistical offices continued to be the lack of trained personnel needed to strengthen the information base of the government for policy-making and for migrating to new systems such as the 1993 SNA. Training was essential for upgrading the capability of national statistical offices in the collection, processing and analysis of data. The Commission requested the Institute to continue and expand its programme of training, especially with regard to sampling, data processing, data analysis and interpretation of statistics, informal sector statistics and national accounts. It requested the Institute to train trainers in statistics and data processing. In particular, it noted the importance of assisting the least developed, landlocked and island developing countries and economies in transition.

275. The Commission urged the Institute to expand its training to support the implementation of decisions taken at global summit meetings in such fields as gender issues and the environment. It also stressed the importance of training in such areas as social statistics and poverty estimation, which would improve the quality of human development indicators.

276. The Commission recalled the importance of the application of information technology in statistical work and stressed the need to familiarize statisticians with new developments in that area. It suggested that the Institute should play a central role in training statisticians in the region in the use of information technology and the development of databases.

277. The Commission expressed concern about the need to improve the financial resources of the Institute and noted with appreciation that several countries had increased their annual contributions to the Institute, while others had pledged contributions for the first time. Nevertheless, it appealed to countries that were not contributing to SIAP to do so, and urged those not meeting the minimum amounts set by the Commission's guidelines to increase their contributions so as to enable the Institute to operate on a stable financial basis.

278. The Commission expressed profound gratitude to the Government of Japan, the host country of the Institute, for the generous support it had provided through financial and in-kind contributions since the establishment of the Institute, as well as for the award of training fellowships for the courses conducted in Tokyo. It welcomed the continued support for the Institute by the Government of Japan. The Commission also expressed its appreciation to UNDP for the valuable support it had been extending since 1970 and for the programme support provided during phase VI of the Institute; it urged UNDP to continue its assistance to SIAP. The Commission welcomed the expressed intention of UNDP to continue to provide financial assistance to allow SIAP to develop collaborative arrangements with countries. The consequent strengthening of statistical systems would generate good-quality human development statistics and indicators and assist in the annual production of human development reports.

279. The Commission also noted the need for the Institute to establish an efficient system of staffing arrangements in order to implement the recommendations endorsed by the Governing Board. It urged members and associate members to provide experts on a short-term or non-reimbursable loan basis, so that SIAP could have access to a wide range of expertise to support its expanded programmes.

Least developed, landlocked and island developing countries

280. The Commission had before it the reports of the Special Body on Least Developed and Landlocked Developing Countries on its third session (E/ESCAP/1064) and of the Special Body on Pacific Island Developing Countries on its fourth session (E/ESCAP/1063). In endorsing the reports, it noted that they had provided a solid basis for the Commission's deliberations. It also expressed appreciation of the secretariat activities for the benefit of those countries.

281. The Commission noted with satisfaction the structural adjustment programmes and steps towards economic reform undertaken by least developed countries. Domestic resources had been mobilized, the effectiveness of the public sector had been enhanced, and greater opportunities for the private sector had been provided. While the role played by governments in development was a critical one, it was increasingly focused on creating an enabling environment to enhance the role of the private sector. Sustainable economic growth required coordinated design and implementation of macroeconomic policies by key government institutions. There was a need to strengthen the capability of the central bank, the ministry of finance and the planning body, and human resources development programmes were required for that purpose. The Commission therefore noted with appreciation the offers of training, as well as TCDC, to develop the human resources necessary for sound institutional capacity in least developed and landlocked developing countries.

282. There was a need to devote further attention to those least developed countries that faced additional constraints in the areas of trade and investment, as well as industrial and infrastructure development, because they were landlocked. Lack of access to the sea placed an additional burden on those countries in terms of transport costs, hazards and risks, and had an adverse impact on efforts towards economic development and poverty alleviation.

283. The Commission requested that the secretariat, under the direction of the Executive Secretary, should intensify its efforts to implement and monitor programmes to address the specific problems of the least developed and landlocked developing countries. The areas of attention could include the economic policy framework, external trade and investment, including FDI, external finance and management of external debt. Such programmes would assist least developed countries in attaining the objectives of the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the 1990s. The Commission noted the considerable efforts made by the least developed countries to fulfil their commitments in the Programme of Action, and the request to the development partners to meet the targets contained in the Programme of Action, including the extension of official development assistance, debt relief, and the provision of concessional and preferential trading arrangements to those countries.

284. The Commission welcomed the offers by developing countries of assistance programmes for the least developed and landlocked developing countries under the arrangements of TCDC and ECDC, as well as other types of cooperation using trilateral and multilateral modalities. Those countries had pledged to continue and strengthen their assistance programmes for least developed and landlocked developing countries based on their needs and efforts.

285. The Commission recommended that the Special Body on Least Developed and Landlocked Developing Countries should continue to be a forum in which the issues of those countries were identified and remedial measures addressed.

286. The Pacific island countries, despite structural constraints of geographic isolation, small size and limited resources, were making concerted efforts to pursue sound macroeconomic policies conducive to economic growth. In that regard, the Commission noted that trade and investment were priority areas in the economic development efforts of the island countries. Since the changing world trading environment would have major implications for trade and investment flows to and from them, the challenge for those countries was to adapt themselves in such a manner that they could remain competitive in the global economy. Pacific island countries were making preparations to participate in world and regional trading arrangements and were adjusting their national policies to enhance the role of the private sector in economic development and to shift the role of government to that of facilitator and regulator. The Commission recognized that Pacific island countries would continue to rely on international assistance as they made adjustments to their economies, and therefore urged international agencies and donors to continue assisting those countries.

287. Particular attention should be paid to problems facing small island States in their consideration of membership of WTO. Assistance on WTO issues for Pacific island countries was available from several sources, including the Forum Secretariat, ESCAP, UNCTAD and WTO itself. It acknowledged that, as the types of assistance required were many, and varied with the status of involvement in the membership process, Pacific island countries would continue to require considerable assistance from those organizations. It underlined the need for coordination among the concerned agencies and expressed appreciation of the efforts made by ESCAP to provide assistance in response to requests from the Pacific island countries and to coordinate its activities on WTO issues with other concerned organizations, such as the Forum Secretariat, UNCTAD and WTO.

288. The Commission was apprised of the Forum Secretariat's activities in the area of trade and investment and WTO issues. The Forum Secretariat had recently recruited an adviser on multilateral trade policy who would be assisting Pacific island countries on WTO and related issues. There was increasing cooperation between ESCAP and the Forum Secretariat on activities for the benefit of Pacific island countries, and the Forum Secretariat found the consultative meetings among the heads of subregional organizations and ESCAP useful in that process.

289. The Commission was informed that the Government of Japan attached special importance to its relationship with Pacific island countries. Several initiatives had been undertaken by Japan with the Forum Secretariat, including the establishment of the Pacific Islands Centre in Tokyo in 1996 and seminars conducted on the development of export products. The Commission also took note of the offer of Japan to host the Japan-South Pacific Forum summit in October 1997.

290. Exchanges of experience between Pacific island countries and other developing economies of the ESCAP region were of significant importance for the economic development of the Pacific island countries. The Commission recognized that ESCAP played a vital role as a bridge between Pacific island countries and Asian economies, especially in facilitating the sharing of development experience in many areas, such as management of development policy, trade and investment, and tourism. It noted that TCDC and other tripartite arrangements were also a useful means of achieving that objective. The Commission expressed its desire for the continuation of such programmes and acknowledged with appreciation the offer of several countries to assist Pacific island countries under their national TCDC-ECDC programmes. It urged Pacific island countries to make more use of the training facilities and other technical cooperation programmes on offer.

291. With regard to ESCAP activities in the Pacific, the Commission recognized the important role played by ESCAP/POC in providing assistance to the Pacific island countries. It acknowledged with appreciation the advisory and consultancy services provided to those countries by the Centre and its assistance to subregional organizations.

292. The Commission reaffirmed the usefulness of the Pacific Trust Fund in assisting the Pacific island countries to participate in the sessions of the Commission, and expressed its appreciation to the many donors that had contributed to the Fund.

Programme planning

Implementation of the programme of work, 1996-1997, and proposed programme changes for 1997

293. The Commission had before it documents E/ESCAP/1065 and Corr.1 and E/ESCAP/1066. It noted the secretariat's acknowledgement of the need for a qualitative assessment of the programme of work; it proposed that future programme planning provide for an assessment of implemented activities and that objective markers be established to facilitate evaluation of those activities. It further proposed that future reports include data relating to regular budget and extrabudgetary resources and outputs delivered from previous years for comparative analysis.

294. The implementation of the programme of work was generally satisfactory. In spite of budget reductions, the important activities had been undertaken, including preparations for a comprehensive review by the Commission of its conference structure, the organization of the Shanghai Symposium to Commemorate the Fiftieth Anniversary of ESCAP, the servicing of legislative meetings and the Ministerial Conference on Infrastructure. Developing members and associate members of the Commission had benefited from the technical assistance activities, which had contributed towards national capacity-building and the promotion of development cooperation among the countries in the region.

295. Noting that over 30 per cent of the regular budget work-months available in 1996 for delivery of outputs had been used to produce technical publications, the Commission suggested that those resources might be put to better use if redeployed to technical assistance activities such as training and advisory services. The Commission encouraged further examination of publications, including recurrent and non-recurrent publications linked to meetings, as well as reconsideration of the frequency of publications, to achieve maximum benefit from resources dedicated to publications. Furthermore, the secretariat should continue its efforts to improve the quality and relevance of its publications through target readership surveys that would enable assessment of their usefulness.

296. The Commission considered and endorsed the proposed changes contained in document E/ESCAP/1066, which were essential in the light of the latest global and regional decisions and the resource situation.

Draft programme of work, 1998-1999

297. The Commission had before it document E/ESCAP/1067 and Corr. 1. It noted the classification and definition of activities provided in the annexes to the report, which had been determined by United Nations Headquarters.

298. Subject to the assessment of resource allocations, the Commission endorsed the draft programme of work, which had been formulated to conform with the objectives of the medium-term plan for the period 1998-2001, and on the basis of the indicative level of resources for 1998-1999 provided by United Nations Headquarters. The programme of work, 1998-1999 is given in annex I to the present report.

299. The Commission noted with satisfaction the emphasis placed on improving the capacity of least developed, landlocked and island developing countries. In that connection, economic reform, more efficient resource mobilization and use, and increased participation in intraregional flows of investment were identified as priority issues. The Commission recommended that the secretariat should analyse the challenges faced by the poorer countries of the region, particularly the least developed, landlocked and island developing countries, in gaining access to external private capital flows.

300. The Commission welcomed the special focus on the promotion of regional cooperation for enhancing trade efficiency and electronic commerce, which would strengthen national capabilities for capital flow, especially for small and medium-sized enterprises, and address issues such as urban infrastructure and urban transport. The secretariat was requested to organize a workshop on future regional trading arrangements within the overall framework of WTO. With regard to activity 1-4-209, Interregional seminar on promotion of economic cooperation among the littoral States of the Bay of Bengal in the context of wider cooperation in the Indian Ocean basin, the secretariat was requested to keep the activity in abeyance, pending advice from the Government of India. The Commission noted with appreciation that the pilot project on disability-friendly neighbourhoods had benefited members and associate members. It was hoped that such activities would continue. One delegation stated that the integration of

tourism under the renamed Committee on Transport, Communications, Tourism and Infrastructure Development would affect the allocation of resources under subprogramme 8, Transport and communications, and expressed the hope that in the rationalization and allocation of resources in view of that new development, technical cooperation in transport and communications in such areas as capability-building and promoting maritime safety would be given due cognizance.

301. The Commission recognized the role of RICAP and its subcommittees in strengthening inter-organizational cooperation and coordination at the regional level. RICAP had been established to foster an integrated United Nations system approach to the implementation of priority activities, which would lead to the optimal use of declining resources for technical assistance projects in the region.

302. The Commission decided that the secretariat's activities should be prioritized and resources allocated accordingly. The questionnaire circulated to members and associate members seeking their assessment of the secretariat's resource allocations at the programme activity level for the programme of work would serve as an important basis for ACPR to propose changes to the programme of work, 1998-1999 and for future programme planning. The secretariat noted that only seven governments had responded prior to the fifty-third session. Members and associate members which had not yet responded to the questionnaire were urged to provide the secretariat with the data and information requested as a matter of urgency.

Calendar of meetings, April 1997-March 1998

303. The Commission endorsed the tentative calendar of meetings for the period April 1997 to March 1998 as contained in document E/ESCAP/1068 and Corr.1.

Technical cooperation activities of ESCAP and announcement of intended contributions

304. The Commission had before it document E/ESCAP/1069, which reported on progress in the implementation of TCDC-ECDC activities and the obstacles encountered, as well as the extrabudgetary-funded technical cooperation activities and the resource constraints experienced by the secretariat in its efforts to promote technical cooperation activities.

305. It was observed that a number of TCDC national focal points were not very active in some countries, and such focal points did not exist in a number of Pacific island countries. Those factors had contributed to the lack of awareness of TCDC opportunities being offered by the more advanced developing countries and, consequently, of the number of activities implemented for their benefit. In other cases, a lack of commitment to TCDC by the least developed, landlocked and island developing countries resulted in the inadequate provision of both human and financial resources for TCDC activities. To counter those constraints, in 1996 the secretariat had conducted a workshop for TCDC national focal points from selected Pacific island developing countries with the objective of sensitizing them to TCDC and to the benefits which would accrue therefrom. A similar workshop for selected least developed countries and disadvantaged economies in transition was scheduled for later in 1997. Other initiatives being taken by the secretariat to expand TCDC included the signing during the current session of a memorandum of understanding with the Government of Singapore concerning a third country training programme, under which ESCAP and the Government of Singapore would jointly finance training activities so that less developed countries could learn from the development experience of Singapore. Similarly, the secretariat was negotiating with the Government of Malaysia to sign a letter of understanding which would enable the less developed countries to benefit from the experience of the development efforts of Malaysia.

306. The secretariat expressed appreciation to the Governments of China, the Netherlands and the Republic of Korea for their extrabudgetary contributions to the TCDC supplementary fund, which had facilitated the implementation of TCDC operational activities.

307. The Commission commended the efforts of the secretariat in fostering TCDC-ECDC, which served as an important vehicle for achieving collective self-reliance, improving economic prosperity and raising the standard of living of the peoples in the developing countries. More specifically, TCDC played a crucial role in promoting economic growth, the transfer of technology, and the accelerated development of the developing countries, with a focus on trade and investment, macroeconomic policy and management, poverty alleviation and environmental protection, among others. Towards that end, due emphasis should be given to the identification of viable TCDC-ECDC projects, with a view to mobilizing donor support within a triangular framework.

308. The Commission urged that the TCDC programme of ESCAP should be strengthened in order to realize the tremendous potential of TCDC-ECDC in the promotion of the socio-economic development of the countries in the region.

309. The Commission was pleased to note the special importance attached by the Government of Indonesia to TCDC-ECDC and the numerous training programmes organized and planned over the years for the benefit of other developing countries in the region. In view of its involvement in TCDC-ECDC activities over the years,

Indonesia would be in a better position to address the issues and impediments associated with TCDC-ECDC, with a view to making it more effective and productive.

310. It noted the initiatives taken by a number of member countries to implement technical assistance programmes for other developing countries in the region on a continuing basis within the framework of TCDC-ECDC. In the light of resource constraints, which served as a major impediment to the fuller implementation of operational TCDC activities, the representative of Malaysia suggested that the possibility of involving the private sector should be explored, particularly to meet the foreign exchange requirements with regard to transport costs.

311. The representative of Samoa expressed appreciation to the donor governments and to the secretariat for assisting the Pacific island countries in tapping the large pool of expertise from other developing countries through participation in training activities and study tours within the framework of TCDC. The Commission urged that the priority areas and requirements of the Pacific island countries should be taken into account when organizing future training programmes for those countries. It was pleased to note the importance attached by Samoa to TCDC-ECDC and the efforts made to utilize national resources for TCDC activities.

312. The Executive Secretary informed the Commission that the total extrabudgetary resources available to ESCAP for the implementation of its technical co-operation activities in 1996 had amounted to US$ 23.26 million, representing an increase of US$ 883,073 over the previous year's amount of US$ 22.37 million. Of the 1996 amount, US$ 9.99 million, or 42.95 per cent, had been received from sources within the United Nations system, US$ 12.41 million, or 53.36 per cent, from bilateral donors and developing members and associate members, and US$ 857,433, or 3.69 per cent, from other organizations.

313. Of the US$ 12.41 million contributed by bilateral donors and developing members and associate members, US$ 10.23 million, or 82.40 per cent, had been received from seven developed donor countries: Australia, France, Germany, Japan, the Netherlands, New Zealand and Norway. Japan, with its contribution of about US$ 6.13 million in 1996, remained the largest bilateral donor to ESCAP, followed by the Netherlands, which had contributed US$ 2.28 million. Twenty-four developing members and associate members had together contributed US$ 2.18 million, or 17.6 per cent. Among them, the largest donor was the Republic of Korea, which had contributed US$ 910,697 in cash, or 41.69 per cent of the cash contributions from developing countries, followed by China, which had contributed US$ 553,382 in cash, or 25.33 per cent.

314. The generous contributions of bilateral donors and developing members and associate members had enabled the secretariat to initiate the implementation of 98 technical assistance projects, with a financial outlay of US$ 8.11 million, under its programme of work. The remaining amount of US$ 4.30 million had been allotted for institutional and programme support to ESCAP regional institutions, RNAM, the Pacific Trust Fund and ESCAP/POC.

315. In addition to cash contributions, donors and developing members had provided 507 work-months of services by experts recruited on a non-reimbursable loan basis in 1996, as compared with 372 work-months of such services received by ESCAP in 1995. The invaluable services of such experts had augmented the regular staff of the secretariat and had greatly enhanced the capability to implement its technical cooperation programme.

316. The Executive Secretary informed the Commission that, despite the changing global trends that had had adverse effects on resource flows for development aid, ESCAP endeavoured to focus and strengthen its technical cooperation programme so as to be able to continue to assist and support the developing members and associate members, in particular the least developed, landlocked and island developing countries as well as the disadvantaged economies in transition. Nevertheless, its ability to undertake operational activities for its developing members and associate members depended on the extrabudgetary resources contributed by governments, organizations and agencies of the United Nations and non-governmental organizations.

317. The Executive Secretary drew the attention of the Commission to the extrabudgetary resource constraints on fuller implementation of the ESCAP technical cooperation programme and the issues affecting the institutional viability of the three regional institutions and RNAM. He also drew the attention of the Commission to the suggestions of the secretariat contained in paragraphs 36-38 and 40 of document E/ESCAP/1069. Those suggestions included the increase in annual contributions by all donors, both developed and developing countries; the establishment of new developing country-ESCAP cooperation funds by more advanced developing members and associate members; timeliness in the disbursement of approved funds; streamlining of the review, selection and approval processes of project proposals; and an increase in the minimum levels of contributions to US$ 2,000 by the least developed countries and US$ 30,000 by the other developing countries towards the institutional costs of the three regional institutions and RNAM.

318. The Executive Secretary expressed deep appreciation and gratitude to all donor countries,

developing members and associate members, funding agencies within the United Nations system and other organizations for their generous and invaluable extrabudgetary contributions. He emphasized that given the above background, enhanced contributions from donors as well as members and associate members were essential for the implementation of the large number of activities within the approved programme of work.

319. The Commission took note of the following contributions pledged for 1997.

320. *Australia*. The representative of Australia announced that, owing to limited development assistance funds in its budget for the fiscal year 1996/97, his Government could not make new contributions to ESCAP in 1997. As with other areas of government expenditure, his Government's overall contributions to United Nations development funds and programmes had been reduced. He emphasized that the reduction did not reflect any dissatisfaction with the United Nations or ESCAP, but rather stemmed from the need to address chronic budget deficit problems. However, in recognition of the important role of multilateral aid in addressing global and regional development issues, his Government had agreed to the allocation of unprogrammed savings from the previous years' contributions for the implementation of two projects in 1997: (a) US$ 40,680 for the project on community-based approaches to drug demand reduction and HIV/AIDS prevention among disadvantaged groups, and (b) US$ 123,195 for the project on sustainable development through meteorological satellite applications to disaster management in the Asian and Pacific region. In addition, his Government agreed to allocate from the unprogrammed savings the amounts of US$ 20,000 for the Pacific Trust Fund and US$ 28,000 for the travel expenses of the Australian expert assigned to ESCAP/POC. His Government would continue to work with ESCAP to improve efficiency in the development and administration of extrabudgetary programmes.

321. *Bangladesh*. The representative of Bangladesh announced that, although his country was a least developed country, his Government had been making regular contributions to the regional institutions, APDC and RNAM. For 1997, his Government intended to make the following contributions:

	US$
(a) APCTT	7 000
(b) CGPRT Centre	1 000
(c) SIAP	5 000
(d) RNAM	6 000

In addition, Bangladesh would contribute US$ 20,000 to APDC.

322. *Brunei Darussalam*. The representative of Brunei Darussalam announced that his Government would contribute US$ 15,000 to SIAP in 1997, which represented an increase of US$ 10,000 over the 1996 contribution to the Institute. In addition, his Government would contribute US$ 10,000 to APDC.

323. *China*. The representative of China announced that his Government would contribute US$ 327,000 and Y 750,000 in 1997, as follows:

(a) ESCAP programme of work for China-ESCAP cooperation projects	Y 750 000
(b) ESCAP programme of work for China-ESCAP cooperation projects (including US$ 40,000 for the ESCAP TCDC supplementary fund and US$ 10,000 for the Pacific Trust Fund)	US$ 150 000
(c) Regional institutions:	
APCTT	US$ 20 000
SIAP	US$ 40 000

In addition, China would contribute US$ 50,000 to CCOP, US$ 55,000 to APDC, and US$ 12,000 to the Typhoon Committee.

324. *France*. While commending the illustrative presentation of extrabudgetary resource allocation among various technical cooperation activities, the representative of France suggested that the secretariat should improve the visibility of the total contribution value, both in cash and in kind, of any contributing countries. The regional institutions might also approach the private sector for possible financial assistance for implementation of their respective activities. In that connection, he stated that his Government had been trying to encourage relations between APCTT and the Franco-Indian Centre for Advanced Research. He expressed support of the secretariat's suggestion that the minimum levels of contributions by the least developed countries should be increased to US$ 2,000 and by other developing countries, to US$ 30,000. He announced that his Government would continue its support and cooperation to ESCAP in 1997 at the same level as in 1996, through the provision of experts and the funding of seminars.

325. *India*. The representative of India announced that his Government intended to contribute the following:

(a) APCTT	100 000	(in national currency)
(b) CGPRT Centre	US$ 10 000	
(c) SIAP	US$ 15 000	
(d) RNAM	US$ 15 000	

The intended contributions for APCTT would be in addition to the host facilities being provided to the Centre in New Delhi. In addition, the savings of US$ 144,000 from its earlier contributions towards the organization of the Ministerial Conference on Infrastructure, held in New Delhi in October 1996, would be made available to ESCAP; its use was being considered in close consultation with the Transport, Communications and Tourism Division. His Government would also contribute US$ 66,000 to APDC for 1997.

326. *Indonesia*. The representative of Indonesia announced that his Government would make the following contributions:

(a)	APCTT	US$ 15 000
(b)	CGPRT Centre	Rp 289.718 million
(c)	SIAP	US$ 40 000
(d)	RNAM	US$ 15 000
(e)	Pacific Trust Fund	US$ 5 000

The intended contribution for the CGPRT Centre in 1997 represented an increase of 10 per cent over the 1996 contribution level. In addition, Indonesia would contribute US$ 47,300 to APDC and US$ 50,000 to CCOP. The representative of Indonesia also announced that his Government had decided to earmark the amount of US$ 150,000 for extrabudgetary resources in support of the ESCAP TCDC-ECDC programme.

327. *Islamic Republic of Iran*. The representative of the Islamic Republic of Iran announced that his Government would triple its intended contributions to ESCAP in 1997 to US$ 45,000 over the 1996 level of contributions, as follows:

		US$
(a)	ESCAP programme of work	20 000
(b)	SIAP	10 000
(c)	RNAM	15 000

328. *Japan*. The representative of Japan announced that his Government would continue its cooperation with ESCAP in 1997 by means of a financial contribution to the Japan-ESCAP Cooperation Fund, despatch of technical experts on a non-reimbursable loan basis through the Japan International Cooperation Agency, and acceptance of trainees through SIAP. The cash contribution of Japan for 1997 would be approximately US$ 6.0 million, which would include its contributions to the Japan-ESCAP Cooperation Fund, SIAP, the CGPRT Centre, APDC and others. He requested the secretariat to continue efforts to pursue administrative reform in implementing its projects.

329. *Lao People's Democratic Republic*. The representative of the Lao People's Democratic Republic announced that her Government intended to contribute US$ 2,000 for the programme of work of ESCAP.

330. *Myanmar*. The representative of Myanmar announced that his Government would contribute US$ 2,000 for the programme of work of ESCAP, US$ 1,000 to the CGPRT Centre, and US$ 1,000 to SIAP.

331. *Nepal*. The representative of Nepal announced that, despite being a least developed country, his Government would make the following intended contributions:

		US$
(a)	ESCAP programme of work	2 492
(b)	APCTT	1 000
(c)	CGPRT Centre	500
(d)	SIAP	1 000

In addition, his Government would contribute US$ 5,000 to APDC.

332. *Netherlands*. The representative of the Netherlands announced that her Government would contribute 3 million guilders (approximately equivalent to US$ 1.6 million) to ESCAP in 1997 as well as in 1998. She expressed the conviction that such contributions would be utilized effectively through a streamlined selection of activities to maximize the benefit to developing members and associate members. She expressed support for the secretariat's appeal to the more advanced developing members and associate members to make increased extrabudgetary contributions, particularly at a time when funds from the regular budget were limited. The Netherlands Government was currently exploring the possibility of funding a large-scale urban development project of ESCAP from funds supplementary to the annual contributions.

333. *New Caledonia*. The representative of New Caledonia announced that his Government would contribute FCFP 500,000 (approximately equivalent to US$ 5,000), for the Pacific Trust Fund in 1997.

334. *Pakistan*. The representative of Pakistan announced the following intended contributions:

		US$
(a)	APCTT	5 000
(b)	SIAP	15 000

In addition, Pakistan would contribute US$ 33,000 to APDC.

335. *Papua New Guinea*. The representative of Papua New Guinea stated that the intended contributions

of his Government to ESCAP in 1997 would be made known to the ESCAP secretariat in writing at a later date.

336. *Philippines.* The representative of the Philippines announced the following contributions:

	US$
(a) APCTT	5 320
(b) CGPRT Centre	19 184
(c) SIAP	19 300
(d) RNAM	7 650

In addition, the Government of the Philippines pledged to contribute US$ 34,291 to CCOP and US$ 100,504 to APDC.

337. *Republic of Korea.* The representative of the Republic of Korea announced that, in addition to the continued provision of the services of nine experts to the ESCAP secretariat, one expert to the CGPRT Centre, and one to the Typhoon Committee on a non-reimbursable loan basis, his Government intended to make the following contributions in 1997:

	US$
(a) Republic of Korea-ESCAP Cooperation Fund	700 000
(b) APCTT	20 000
(c) CGPRT Centre	20 000
(d) SIAP	40 000
(e) RNAM	20 000

In addition, his Government would contribute US$ 100,000 to APDC and US$ 60,000 to CCOP.

338. *Singapore.* The representative of Singapore announced that his Government would contribute US$ 15,000 to SIAP in 1997.

339. *Sri Lanka.* The representative of Sri Lanka announced the following contributions:

	US$
(a) APCTT	5 000
(b) CGPRT Centre	10 000
(c) SIAP	10 000
(d) RNAM	5 000

The secretariat would be advised in due course of the intended contribution of Sri Lanka to APDC.

340. *Thailand.* The representative of Thailand announced that the total intended contributions of his Government to ESCAP regional institutions and special regional projects and trust funds, and other affiliated organizations, in 1997 would amount to US$ 179,000, representing an increase of US$ 11,000 over the 1996 level. Details of the intended cash contributions were as follows:

	US$
(a) APCTT	15 000
(b) CGPRT Centre	30 000
(c) SIAP	20 000
(d) RNAM	15 000
(e) Pacific Trust Fund	1 000
(f) Trust Fund for the participation of the disadvantaged economies in transition and Mongolia	2 000

In addition, Thailand would contribute US$ 44,000 to APDC, US$ 40,000 to CCOP and US$ 12,000 to the Typhoon Committee.

341. *Viet Nam.* The representative of Viet Nam announced that his Government would maintain the level of its intended contributions in 1997 at the same level as in 1996, which was US$ 5,000 for the ESCAP programme of work and US$ 2,990 for RNAM.

342. *Germany.* The representative of Germany conveyed to the secretariat that his Government intended to contribute DM 2.0 million for the three ongoing regional projects in the fields of trade promotion, regional transport infrastructure, and fertilizer marketing and distribution, and for APCTT.

343. The total pledges of contributions to ESCAP for 1997 made by 22 members and associate members amounted to approximately US$ 11.01 million, comprising US$ 9.54 million in cash and an estimated US$ 1.47 million in kind. The amounts did not include contributions announced for CCOP, APDC and the Typhoon Committee.

344. The Commission noted that the total pledges mentioned above did not include possible contributions from other member and donor countries which had made no announcement of intended contributions at the current session, or the value of several unquantified contributions pledged. In addition, extrabudgetary resources to be received from UNDP, UNFPA, other agencies of the United Nations system and other intergovernmental organizations, for ESCAP-executed projects, were not reflected in the total pledges.

345. The Commission endorsed the suggestions of the secretariat with regard to fuller implementation of the ESCAP technical cooperation activities as well as the smooth operation of the Commission's regional institutions and RNAM.

346. The Executive Secretary expressed appreciation to members, associate members and donor countries for the intended contributions announced at the current session. Such pledges symbolized their commitment to and support of the goals and priorities of ESCAP. He reiterated the determination of the secretariat to make the most cost-effective use of those contributions for the benefit of the developing members and associate members of the Commission.

Strengthening inter-organizational cooperation in the promotion of economic and social development in the region

347. The Commission had before it document E/ESCAP/1070. The Executive Secretary informed the Commission that ESCAP was working towards strengthening inter-organizational cooperation in the promotion of economic and social development in the region, through RICAP, both in the implementation of the ESCAP programme of work and in the effective implementation of the decisions of global conferences at the regional level. It was gratifying to note the enhanced inter-agency cooperation within the framework of RICAP between ESCAP and other United Nations bodies and agencies, financial institutions, and intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations. ESCAP and ECE were cooperating closely in the planning and implementation of technical assistance activities for the benefit of the Central Asian republics, and had proposed a joint special programme which was expected to become operational shortly.

348. The role of ESCAP/POC in promoting inter-agency coordination in the Pacific subregion was noted. The collaboration of ESCAP with subregional organizations was highlighted. In that connection, the third Consultative Meeting among Executive Heads of Subregional Organizations and ESCAP, which would meet in Tehran in May 1997, would discuss the framework for cooperation among subregional organizations in Asia and the Pacific, as well as putting into operation inter-subregional technical cooperation activities in the fields of trade and investment cooperation, energy, human resources development, transport and communications and poverty alleviation. The Commission took note of the suggestion made by some delegations that the outcome of such interregional collaboration should be submitted to the Commission at its annual sessions for the information of member States.

349. The Executive Secretary sought the guidance of the Commission on the possibility of mobilizing resources for implementing joint activities within the framework of RICAP.

350. Well integrated inter-organizational cooperation would bring beneficial results and should be enhanced and strengthened. The Commission noted with satisfaction the functioning of RICAP and its subcommittees during the past year. RICAP had focused on achieving complementarity in the implementation of programmes and projects and ensuring that duplication of work was avoided. Future meetings of RICAP should also focus on how ESCAP could benefit from the programme of activities of the various United Nations agencies and institutions, and vice versa. Towards that end, ESCAP should concentrate on areas in which it had comparative advantage in relation to other agencies and institutions.

351. The Commission commended the initiative taken by the secretariat in organizing the consultative meetings among executive heads of subregional organizations, namely ASEAN, SAARC, ECO, SPC and the Forum Secretariat, with a view to exploring the possibility of cooperation and coordination of activities among those organizations. The Commission recalled that in 1994 a framework agreement, which provided the basis for cooperation on development issues through joint studies, training activities, exchange of information and sharing of experience, had been signed between ESCAP and SAARC.

352. Recognizing that sustainable development encompassed numerous disciplines and fields of specialization calling for the expertise and comparative advantage of the relevant United Nations agencies, bodies and institutions, the Commission held the view that a well integrated and coordinated approach among the agencies concerned would bring about better results. It was therefore important for ESCAP to set up an effective coordination mechanism to ensure optimal outputs. The Commission urged ESCAP to strengthen support efforts in that regard.

353. Cooperation between ESCAP and ECE relating to the implementation of technical cooperation activities for the benefit of disadvantaged economies in transition was effective and productive, with emphasis on priority areas, including the development of trade and investment, industrial restructuring, the transfer of technology, and environmental protection. The Commission welcomed the joint ESCAP-ECE initiative to develop a special programme for the economies of Central Asia, to which the Russian Federation would be able to contribute substantively.

354. One delegation asked the secretariat to clarify why several subcommittees dealt with HIV/AIDS. The Executive Secretary explained that a major objective of RICAP was precisely to avoid duplication of work. The work on HIV/AIDS undertaken by the Subcommittee on Drug Control related to a cooperative effort between UNESCO and the United Nations International Drug Control Programme on the regional development or improvement of school-based programmes for the prevention of HIV/AIDS and drug abuse. On the other hand, the Subcommittee on Population and Development was concerned with the demographic impact of HIV/AIDS. The Executive Secretary confirmed the

need to maintain the different subcommittees which were responsible for specific issues.

355. The Commission took note of the recent launching of a restructuring plan of ECO, which placed emphasis on trade and investment, transport, and energy, as priority areas for cooperation among its member States. The representative of the Islamic Republic of Iran looked forward to the fruitful outcome of the third Consultative Meeting among Executive Heads of Subregional Organizations, to be held in Tehran, so that steps could be taken to identify and implement joint programmes and projects in the priority areas identified in previous meetings.

356. The representative of Pakistan was particularly interested in more effective coordination between SAARC and ECO and ASEAN and ESCAP, which should bring about an increase in trade and investment, leading towards the socio-economic development of the region.

357. Expressing appreciation of the comments and suggestions made by the Commission, the Executive Secretary reiterated that the objective of RICAP was to provide a forum for the exchange of views and information on the respective programmes of work of ESCAP, the United Nations agencies and other relevant institutions, with a view to avoiding unnecessary duplication of work and realizing complementarity of work through the formulation of joint programmes.

358. The issue of strengthening inter-organizational cooperation in the promotion of economic and social development was important and should be retained as an item on the agenda of future Commission sessions.

359. The Commission took note of the statements made by the representatives of the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat), the World Association for Small and Medium Enterprises, and WHO on the policies and strategies, objectives, programmes of work and priorities, and implementation strategies of their respective organizations. A statement by CITYNET was distributed to the delegations.

Reports of regional intergovernmental bodies

Asian and Pacific Development Centre

360. The Commission had before it the annual report of APDC for 1996, transmitted for information under a note by the secretariat (E/ESCAP/1071).

361. The Director of the Centre reported that 1996 marked the second year of the Centre's work programme, 1995-1998. In 1996, the Centre had implemented 27 projects in four major programme areas: energy, gender, poverty alleviation and public management. It had completed six publications in the fields of information technology, public sector innovations, population and environment, changing comparative advantages, economic management, and privatization in Asia and the Pacific.

362. The programme fund received by the Centre in 1996 was US$ 1 million, an increase of 10.3 per cent as compared with 1995. The total institutional and development fund available for 1996 was US$ 2.9 million, as against US$ 3.1 million for 1995. On the expenditure side, the total for 1996 was US$ 2.6 million, as compared with US$ 3.1 million in 1995, or 16.5 per cent less than the preceding year. Overall, the 1996 operational budget had a surplus of US$ 36,373, in contrast to a deficit of US$ 65,357 in 1995. Therefore, the cumulative reserve fund had increased by US$ 36,373.

363. The Director expressed gratitude for the support provided by member countries and invited other ESCAP members to join the Centre to promote technical cooperation among developing countries in the region.

364. A number of delegations commented on the useful work done by APDC in the areas of gender development, energy, credit to the poor and regional cooperation. Some delegations urged expansion of those activities that were in conformity with the development needs of the region, and pledged to continue their financial support.

Coordinating Committee for Coastal and Offshore Geoscience Programmes in East and Southeast Asia

365. The Commission had before it the report of CCOP, transmitted for information under a note by the secretariat (E/ESCAP/1072).

366. The Commission was informed that during the past year CCOP had made significant progress in the development of the human resources and technology of its member countries for geoscientific advancement, particularly in four main sectors: energy, minerals, coastal zones and geohazards. In the energy sector, projects related to resource evaluation and planning, reservoir management and pre-Tertiary geology had been initiated. In the mineral sector, efforts had continued towards training in the application of computer technology to regional map compilation and the interpretation of geoscientific data. Under the coastal zone sector, the Programme on Geoscience for Integrated Coastal Zone Management and Development of Southeast and East Asian Coastal Zones, launched in 1995, had continued to make significant progress, with the holding of roving seminars and task force meetings in member countries. In the geohazard sector, attention had been focused on natural hazard mitigation and prevention.

367. The Commission noted with appreciation the strong commitment of CCOP member countries and the support of cooperating countries and relevant organizations. It was noted that the financial position of

CCOP had improved considerably and the Director was commended on his effective fund-raising efforts. Cooperation had continued between CCOP and ESCAP in the exchange of geoscientific information and the undertaking of joint activities under the work programme, so as to avoid duplication of effort and to use the available resources effectively.

368. The Commission expressed appreciation to Canada, Denmark, France, Japan, the Netherlands, Norway and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, and to the relevant cooperating organizations, for extending assistance to the programme areas concerning coastal and energy management, and the development of mineral resources and geohazard mitigation. It requested the cooperating countries to continue to provide technical expertise for enhancing human resources development related to geosciences in the region.

Mekong River Commission

369. The Commission had before it the report of the Mekong River Commission, which was transmitted for information under a note by the secretariat (E/ESCAP/1073), and presented by the Chairman of the Joint Committee of the Mekong River Commission.

370. The Commission noted with appreciation the progress and achievements in 1996 in the implementation of the Agreement on Cooperation for the Sustainable Development of the Mekong River Basin, signed on 5 April 1995 by the four lower Mekong Basin countries, Cambodia, the Lao People's Democratic Republic, Thailand and Viet Nam. The Agreement established the Mekong River Commission (MRC), to replace the Interim Mekong Committee, which had been established under the umbrella of the Economic Commission for Asia and the Far East (the forerunner of ESCAP) in 1957. The Commission was informed that MRC was mandated to cooperate in a constructive and mutually beneficial manner and to promote cooperation for sustainable development, utilization, conservation and management of the water and related resources of the Mekong River Basin, for the social and economic development of all the riparian States. The Commission noted with satisfaction the enthusiasm of the current members of MRC in the implementation of the Agreement.

371. The Commission was informed that MRC had entered into a dialogue with the upstream riparian States, China and Myanmar, for wider cooperation. The "formal dialogue partnership" between MRC and the two upstream countries had been established for cooperation on seven areas of common interest. The Commission was also informed that MRC had initiated contacts with other river basin commissions in the world, including the Murray-Darling Basin Commission and the Interstate Council on the Problems of the Aral Sea Basin, to exchange experiences.

372. The Commission noted that MRC had continued to strengthen its existing relationship with other international organizations and had collaborated actively with other subregional initiatives, especially the Greater Mekong Subregional Programme of ADB and the Forum for the Comprehensive Development of Indo-China.

373. The Commission was informed that out of approximately 100 projects included in the work programme of MRC in 1996, 48 were being implemented. The total contributions received from donors in 1996 had amounted to US$ 27.3 million, and MRC had established the Donors' Consultative Group, which had already held formal and informal meetings. The Commission was pleased to note the continuing support for MRC from the donor countries and agencies, as confirmed by some donor countries at the session. It also noted the appreciation expressed by MRC to the donor community and UNDP and ESCAP for the continuing and consistent support provided since the establishment of the Mekong Committee several decades earlier.

374. The Commission noted that MRC was continuing to shift from national to basinwide or regional priorities and to carry out its work following a programmatic and strategic approach, with the future formulation of the Mekong Basin development plan as a planning tool. It also noted that the activities of MRC were becoming more numerous and complex and that the Mekong Basin development plan would be a comprehensive plan with a broad vision on many aspects to guide its activities on water management, including the formulation of programmes and projects.

375. The Commission expressed appreciation to the member countries of MRC and to the donors for their close cooperation, and urged UNDP and other international agencies and donor countries to provide increasing support to MRC, financially and technically, so that the useful work on the development of the water and related resources of the Mekong River Basin could continue well into the future.

Typhoon Committee

376. The Commission had before it the report of the Typhoon Committee, transmitted for information under a note by the secretariat (E/ESCAP/1074).

377. It was informed that the second joint session of the Typhoon Committee and the WMO/ESCAP Panel on Tropical Cyclones had been held at Phuket, Thailand, in February 1997, and had been another significant step towards closer cooperation. The Commission noted with appreciation the progress achieved by the Committee in 1996, including important work undertaken in the meteorological and hydrological components, disaster prevention and preparedness, training and research. The Commission welcomed Singapore as a new member of the Typhoon Committee.

378. The Commission noted the support provided by ESCAP to various activities of the Committee members and also noted the valuable contribution of WMO to the work of the Typhoon Committee over the years.

379. The Commission was informed that the Committee had decided to widen the scope of the Typhoon Committee hydrologists; they would not only cope with flood loss reduction but would also deal with optimum use of the waters that became available. The Commission expressed appreciation to the Republic of Korea for providing the services of a hydrologist to the Typhoon Committee Secretariat, and to Japan for having provided hydrologists in the past. It also thanked the Philippines for hosting and providing continuous support to the Typhoon Committee Secretariat. The Commission was pleased to note that China was ready to organize, and provide the local costs for, a technical exchange tour for tropical cyclone-forecasting experts of the members of the WMO/ESCAP Panel on Tropical Cyclones, if the members could provide for the international travel costs. China would also host the Fourth WMO/International Council of Scientific Unions (ICSU) International Workshop on Tropical Cyclones, to be held in Haikou, Hainan, China in April 1998.

380. The Commission noted with appreciation the extensive efforts of the Typhoon Committee, including its coordination of the early warning and forecasting systems of its members, increased disaster reduction and preparedness activities, and related research and training work. The Commission was also pleased to note the growing interest in the work of the Typhoon Committee, as was indicated by the attendance at its session of Australia, Brunei Darussalam, Indonesia, Mongolia, Papua New Guinea and the United States of America. The Commission noted with interest that the Russian Federation was considering the possibility of joining the Typhoon Committee.

381. The representative of the WMO/ESCAP Panel on Tropical Cyclones presented a brief account of the activities of the Panel, an intergovernmental body which included seven ESCAP members, undertaking similar functions to those of the Typhoon Committee in the areas of Bengal Bay and the Arabian Sea. The Commission noted with interest the desire of the Panel to become a part of its conference structure, with a status similar to that of the Typhoon Committee. In connection with the work of the Panel, the representative of India requested that a study be undertaken on tropical cyclones with looping and other unusual curvature movements, similar to the Special Experiment Concerning Typhoon Recurvature and Unusual Movement (SPECTRUM) study which had been undertaken for the Typhoon Committee area.

382. The Commission noted the continued support of ESCAP for the members of the Typhoon Committee in their endeavours on flood protection. It expressed support for a project on a regional seminar on flood risk analysis and mapping, which would benefit a number of Committee members as well as other vulnerable countries of the ESCAP region. The Commission appealed to donors to provide support for the implementation of that project.

383. The Commission urged UNDP, WMO and the ESCAP secretariat to continue to provide support for the Typhoon Committee, and requested other donor agencies and countries to contribute to its activities. It also invited the members of the Typhoon Committee to make more extensive use of the TCDC programme for the exchange of expertise on the various aspects of natural disaster reduction.

384. The Commission noted with appreciation the offer of Hong Kong to hold the thirtieth session of the Typhoon Committee in Hong Kong, China from 25 November to 1 December 1997.

Activities of the Advisory Committee of Permanent Representatives and Other Representatives Designated by Members of the Commission

385. The Commission had before it documents E/ESCAP/1075 and Add.1, containing the report of ACPR, which was presented by the representative of the Republic of Korea as the rapporteur.

386. During the one-year period following the fifty-second session of the Commission, ACPR had held 11 regular sessions and 2 informal sessions to discuss issues of concern to the region and to provide guidance to the secretariat on a variety of subject areas relating to the ESCAP programme of work, including the following:

(a) Commission session:

(i) Review of the outcome of the fifty-second session of the Commission, particularly the introduction of the two-segment approach consisting of the Senior Officials' Segment and the Ministerial Segment;

(ii) The suggestion to hold separate meetings among heads of delegations to enable an exchange of views to take place on matters of regional interest;

(iii) Discussion on encouraging inter-active debate during the Ministerial Segment;

(iv) Preparations for the fifty-third and fifty-fourth sessions of the Commission, including a selection of possible theme topics, together with budgetary implications, for the fifty-fourth session;

(b) Preparations for 13 intergovernmental meetings and review of the outcome of the 11 meetings held to date;

(c) Implementation of resolutions and major decisions of the Commission;

(d) Implementation of the programme of work for 1996-1997 and programme changes for 1997; the draft programme budget and programme of work for 1998-1999; the draft medium-term plan for the period 1998-2001; and the calendar of meetings, January 1997-March 1998;

(e) Review of the status of progress in and the implementation of Commission resolution 48/2 of 23 April 1992.

387. ACPR had undertaken an independent review of the ESCAP conference structure, as mandated in Commission resolution 52/1 of 24 April 1996, and its report had been an important input into the Regional Preparatory Meeting on the Review of the Conference Structure of the Commission, which had been held at Bangkok in February 1997. As requested by that Meeting, ACPR had reviewed critically and endorsed for consideration by the Commission (a) the respective draft terms of reference of the proposed five subsidiary committees and the two special bodies of the Commission, and (b) a draft resolution on restructuring the conference structure of the Commission.

388. In commending the work and achievements of ACPR during the past year, the Commission recognized its unique usefulness and importance as a forum in the United Nations system for promoting better understanding of the needs and requirements of its members, thereby enhancing the efficiency of ESCAP. ACPR had also served as an effective mechanism for the secretariat and member countries to work closely together in addressing issues of concern to the region. In that connection, special informal working groups had been established by ACPR to review the draft New Delhi Declaration on Infrastructure Development in Asia and the Pacific, which had facilitated the work of the Ministerial Conference on Infrastructure, held at New Delhi in October 1996, and to rationalize the work of the Committee for Regional Economic Cooperation in relation to its Steering Group.

389. With regard to the membership of ACPR, the Commission noted with concern the lack of representation from the Pacific island and other countries which had no representative offices in Bangkok. That constraint was felt more acutely when ACPR had had to deal with the critical issue of reform. The representative of Papua New Guinea, speaking on behalf of the Pacific island countries, expressed appreciation that the concern of ACPR about the Pacific island developing countries and the least developed and landlocked developing countries had led to the retention of the special bodies. In addition, the concerns and issues relating to those countries were to be given priority attention in all five subsidiary committees of the Commission.

390. The Commission held the view that ACPR should be further strengthened and that it should continue to work closely with the secretariat in improving its overseeing and monitoring functions relating to the implementation of the work programme, and in developing a more transparent budget. As part of that exercise, ACPR should review the documentation and publications programme of the secretariat. It should also determine how to assist the subsidiary committees of the Commission in focusing their work. Given those assignments, ACPR also needed to assess how its workload could best be streamlined so that it could concentrate on sp[illegible] issues as required by the Commission.

Date, venue and any other subject pertaining to the fifty-fourth session of the Commission

391. The Commission had before it document E/ESCAP/1076. It decided that its fifty-fourth session would be held at Bangkok in March or April 1998. The Executive Secretary, in consultation with the member governments and the Chairperson, would determine the exact dates of the session and inform the members and associate members of the Commission accordingly.

392. The Commission decided that the theme topic of the fifty-fourth session would be "Asia and the Pacific into the twenty-first century: status of and prospects for social development". Owing to the broadness of the theme, one delegation suggested that the theme topic should focus on the important issues of social development, such as human resources development, poverty alleviation and the promotion of development through science and technology.

Adoption of the report of the Commission

393. The present report was adopted by the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific at the 11th meeting of its fifty-third session on 30 April 1997.

Chapter IV

RESOLUTIONS ADOPTED BY THE COMMISSION AT ITS FIFTY-THIRD SESSION

53/1. Restructuring the conference structure of the Commission[1]

The Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific,

Recalling its resolutions 143 (XXX) of 5 April 1974, 210 (XXXVI) of 29 March 1980, 262 (XLIII) of 30 April 1987, 47/3 of 10 April 1991 and 51/3 of 1 May 1995 on the conference structure of the Commission,

Recalling also General Assembly resolution 50/11 of 2 November 1995 on multilingualism, in particular paragraphs 1, 5 and 6 thereof,

Further recalling its resolution 48/2 of 23 April 1992 on restructuring the conference structure of the Commission, in particular its decision to review the conference structure of the Commission, including its thematic priorities and its subsidiary structure, no later than at the fifty-third session of the Commission,

Cognizant of General Assembly resolution 50/227 of 24 May 1996 on further measures for the restructuring and revitalization of the United Nations in the economic, social and related fields,

Reaffirming that the complexity of the development problems faced by the countries in the Asian and Pacific region, in particular the developing countries, increasingly demands that these problems be tackled in a comprehensive manner through interdisciplinary and intersectoral action,

Recognizing the increased responsibilities of the Commission, which comprises a geographical area containing 62 per cent of the population of the world and includes many developing members and associate members, among which are least developed, landlocked and island developing economies, and economies in transition with special needs,

Recognizing further that the occasion of its fiftieth anniversary provides a historic opportunity for the Commission to bring about wide participation of its members and associate members and to sharpen the focus of its work to enable it to respond more effectively to the evolving economic and social needs of the members and associate members within a rapidly changing global paradigm, including the changing scope of regional cooperation, by utilizing fully the multidisciplinary advantage of the Commission and its increased capability in technical assistance activities,

Noting the comparative advantage of the Commission as the most representative body for the Asian and Pacific region in carrying out its role as the main general economic and social development centre of the United Nations system for the Asian and Pacific region,

Having considered the recommendations of the Regional Preparatory Meeting on the Review of the Conference Structure of the Commission, held at Bangkok from 24 to 28 February 1997,

1. *Decides* to revise its conference structure, including its thematic and subsidiary structure, to conform to the following pattern:

(1) *The Commission*

The Commission shall meet annually, each session comprising a senior officials' segment followed by a ministerial segment, for up to a maximum of seven working days to discuss and decide upon important issues concerning economic and social development in the region, to decide upon the recommendations of its subsidiary bodies and of the Executive Secretary, to examine and approve the programme of work and priorities and to take any other decisions required, in conformity with its terms of reference.

(2) *Subsidiary structure*

A. The conference structure of the Commission should consist of the following five committees, which should meet at the intervals and for the maximum duration indicated below:

Committees	*Periodicity*	*Maximum duration*
Regional economic cooperation	Biennial	3 days
Socio-economic measures to alleviate poverty in rural and urban areas	Annual	3 days
Environment and natural resources development	Annual	3 days
Transport, communications, tourism and infrastructure development	Annual	3 days
Statistics	Biennial	3 days

[1] See para. 98 above.

The Special Body on Least Developed and Landlocked Developing Countries and the Special Body on Pacific Island Developing Countries should be retained and reinvigorated. The sessions of the Special Bodies should be held for a maximum of two days biennially, one each in alternate years, back-to-back with the annual sessions of the Commission.

B. In order to facilitate its work, the Committee on Regional Economic Cooperation shall have a high-level steering group, which will meet annually for a maximum duration of three days. Such a steering group shall form its own agenda and organize its own procedure of work under the overall direction of the Committee.

C. The revised structure is shown in chart form in annex I to the present resolution.

(3) *Ad hoc ministerial conferences*

(a) Subject to the approval of the Commission, ad hoc ministerial conferences on specific issues may be organized but, starting in 1998, no more than one such conference should be held per year;

(b) In those years when a ministerial conference is held which is regarded as covering issues normally discussed in a corresponding committee or special body, that committee or special body shall not be convened.

(4) *Ad hoc intergovernmental meetings*

(a) Ad hoc intergovernmental meetings may be convened with the prior approval of the Commission, to carry out a detailed examination of substantive and priority issues, including relevant cross-sectoral issues;

(b) No more than five such intergovernmental meetings may be held during a calendar year, and the total number of days should not exceed twenty-five.

(5) *Advisory Committee of Permanent Representatives and Other Representatives Designated by Members of the Commission*

The functions of the Advisory Committee of Permanent Representatives and Other Representatives Designated by Members of the Commission shall be in accordance with the terms of reference contained in annex II to the present resolution. It shall examine ways to enhance and improve its ability to advise and assist the Executive Secretary in drawing up proposals for the medium-term plan, the programme budget, and the work programme priorities and resource allocation, consistent with the guidelines provided by the Commission, and to monitor and evaluate the implementation, outcome and effectiveness of the Commission's programme of work in accordance with paragraphs 2 and 3 of the terms of reference of the Advisory Committee, and to report back to the Commission at its fifty-fourth session.

(6) *Existing bodies under the auspices of the Commission*

The following bodies under the auspices of the Commission shall continue to function as prescribed in their respective statutes and terms of reference:

(i) Asian and Pacific Centre for Transfer of Technology

(ii) Regional Coordination Centre for Research and Development of Coarse Grains, Pulses, Roots and Tuber Crops in the Humid Tropics of Asia and the Pacific

(iii) Statistical Institute for Asia and the Pacific

(7) *General provisions*

(a) *Functions*

The functions of the committees and special bodies are specified in their respective terms of reference in annexes III - IX to the present resolution. Committees should select priority issues and focus on well-defined problems in order to show tangible results within specified time-frames.

(b) *Rules of procedure*

Unless otherwise specified by the Commission, the rules of procedure of the Commission, including those pertaining to the decision-making process, shall apply *mutatis mutandis* to the committees and special bodies.

(c) *Informal session*

An informal session among the heads of delegations during the ministerial segment of each Commission session should be organized on a year-by-year basis and should not be institutionalized. The agenda for the informal session should be decided by consensus and the annotated agenda should reach members at least thirty days before the opening of the session, to ensure the efficiency and effectiveness of the session. Simultaneous interpretation should also be provided;

2. *Invites* the Executive Secretary, under the direction of the Secretary-General of the United Nations and in conformity with the goal of maximizing the impact of the United Nations in the field of economic and social development, to reorganize the secretariat so as to enhance its capability to service the subsidiary structure of the Commission and implement its revised programme of work under the framework of the medium-term plan for the period 1998-2001;

3. *Requests* the Executive Secretary to inform the governments of members and associate members about his preliminary assessment of the organizational, staffing and financial implications of the revision of the intergovernmental structure subsidiary to the Commission within the next six months;

4. *Requests* the Executive Secretary to report to the Commission at subsequent sessions on (a) the implementation of the present resolution; and (b) the impact and effectiveness of the revised conference structure, including its thematic priorities and its subsidiary structure;

5. *Further requests* the Executive Secretary to inform members and associate members, through the Advisory Committee of Permanent Representatives and Other Representatives Designated by Members of the Commission, of ESCAP progress towards the implementation of General Assembly resolution 50/227 of 24 May 1996;

6. *Commends* the secretariat on the implementation of General Assembly resolutions establishing language arrangements for the official working languages of the Commission and urges the Executive Secretary to continue his efforts to monitor closely the strict implementation of General Assembly resolution 50/11 of 2 November 1995;

7. *Decides* to review the conference structure of the Commission, including its thematic priorities and its subsidiary structure, no later than at its fifty-eighth session.

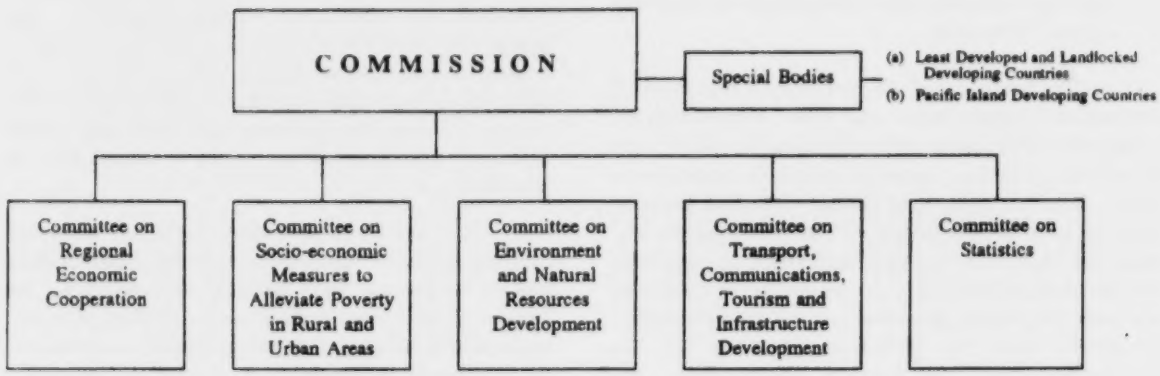
11th meeting
30 April 1997

ANNEXES

Annex I

ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COMMISSION FOR ASIA AND THE PACIFIC

SUBSIDIARY STRUCTURE OF THE COMMISSION


COMMISSION
Special Bodies
(a) Least Developed and Landlocked Developing Countries
(b) Pacific Island Developing Countries
Committee on Regional Economic Cooperation
Committee on Socio-economic Measures to Alleviate Poverty in Rural and Urban Areas
Committee on Environment and Natural Resources Development
Committee on Transport, Communications, Tourism and Infrastructure Development
Committee on Statistics

Annex II

TERMS OF REFERENCE OF THE ADVISORY COMMITTEE OF PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVES AND OTHER REPRESENTATIVES DESIGNATED BY MEMBERS OF THE COMMISSION

The Advisory Committee of Permanent Representatives and Other Representatives Designated by Members of the Commission shall have the following functions:

1. To maintain close cooperation and consultation between the members and the secretariat of the Commission.

2. To advise and assist the Executive Secretary in drawing up proposals for the medium-term plan, programme budget and priorities, consistent with the guidelines provided by the Commission.

3. To receive on a regular basis information on the administrative and financial functioning of ESCAP, and to assist and advise the Executive Secretary in monitoring and evaluating the implementation of the ESCAP programme of work.

4. To review the draft calendar of meetings prior to its submission to the Commission session.

5. To exchange views with the Executive Secretary on the provisional agenda for each session of the Commission, bearing in mind chapter II of its rules of procedure.

6. To assist the secretariat in the formulation of the annotated provisional agenda for each session of the Commission before it is finalized.

7. To monitor the functioning of the thematic approach and the implementation of activities under it, in order to provide an assessment of the thematic approach and to suggest to the Commission at the appropriate time potential modifications to or changes of the themes.

8. To carry out any other tasks to be entrusted to it by the Commission.

Annex III

TERMS OF REFERENCE OF THE COMMITTEE ON REGIONAL ECONOMIC COOPERATION

A. The economic growth process in the Asian and Pacific region is characterized by increasing interdependence of its economies leading to a growing trend towards regional economic cooperation. The potential for enhanced cooperation will be realized more fully through the promotion and expansion of intraregional and inter-subregional trade and investment flows, technology development and transfer, and industrial production linkages, all of which are strongly encouraged by the diversity and increasing complementarity of the region's economies. There is, in addition, the imperative of such enhanced regional economic cooperation for spreading the growth impulse more widely across the region and mainstreaming the least developed, landlocked and Pacific island developing countries as well as economies in transition.

B. Under the overall supervision of the Commission, the Committee would:

1. Review and analyse global and regional trends and developments that have an impact on areas such as intraregional trade, investment, technology and financial flows, enterprise development, trade efficiency, information technology, industrial restructuring and relocation, and technological development and transfer.

2. Serve as a mobilizer of ideas and a catalyst for action to promote regional economic cooperation by identifying and addressing major development issues and regional concerns and priorities in trade, investment, financial, information technology, industrial and technological areas, and recommending policy options and measures to achieve tangible results and to enhance national capacities to meet new challenges.

3. Review the implementation and effectiveness of the programme of work of the secretariat and make recommendations to the Commission about future programmes of work, and in this process ensure that cross-sectoral issues such as special concerns of the least developed, landlocked and Pacific island developing countries, and economies in transition, the environment, human resources development, and women in development, are adequately addressed.

4. Strengthen the cooperative relationship with relevant subregional organizations to promote intra-subregional and inter-subregional cooperation and linkages through the interchange of information and experiences and, in response to articulated needs, through the promotion of growth triangles and quadrangles or other special mechanisms and arrangements.

5. Accelerate follow-up to the decisions and recommendations of global conferences relevant to the work of the Committee, at the national, subregional and regional levels; and evaluate progress and provide guidance on the implementation of regional action programmes.

6. Promote liaison with development agencies and financial institutions, private sector organizations, non-governmental organizations, and donor countries, within and outside the region, in its initiatives and activities to promote regional economic cooperation.

7. Promote liaison with relevant agencies of the United Nations system, with a view to minimizing overlapping and duplication, and strengthening cooperation with other organizations and other bodies at the subregional, regional and global levels to maximize the effectiveness and impact of the Commission's activities.

8. Work closely with other subsidiary organs of the Commission and coordinate its activities with them.

9. Carry out such other activities as the Commission may direct from time to time in matters relating to regional economic cooperation.

Within the context of its terms of reference, the Committee should identify the tasks to be undertaken during a specified period. The Committee should indicate the outcomes expected from each task, set a time-frame for the achievement of each task and monitor its implementation and effectiveness.

The Committee shall be composed of all members and associate members of the Commission.

The Committee shall meet biennially and its report will be submitted as a background document to facilitate discussion on regional economic cooperation at the Commission sessions.

The Committee shall have a high-level Steering Group to develop innovative approaches and facilitate exchange of views on pre-selected issues of current interest, among a cross-section of representatives of government, academia and the private sector, in order to have in-depth discussion on a range of options on regional economic cooperation and make specific recommendations. Its membership shall be drawn from members and associate members on a voluntary basis. Subject to the approval of members and associate members by consensus, representatives of development agencies, financial institutions, private sector organizations and non-governmental organizations may be invited to meetings of the Steering Group to fulfil its role as a "think tank".

The Steering Group shall meet annually and its report shall be submitted to the Committee. In the years the Committee does not meet, issues discussed and recommendations made by the Steering Group could also be submitted directly to the Commission for its consideration.

Annex IV

TERMS OF REFERENCE OF THE COMMITTEE ON SOCIO-ECONOMIC MEASURES TO ALLEVIATE POVERTY IN RURAL AND URBAN AREAS

A. Poverty remains a most important issue in developing countries of the ESCAP region, which must be addressed in a holistic and integrated manner. Hence, poverty alleviation is a major focus of assistance to countries in their attempts to achieve economic growth and improve the quality of life in the context of sustainable development and the emerging global economy. The Committee on Socio-economic Measures to Alleviate Poverty in Rural and Urban Areas would therefore serve as a regional forum for (a) the identification of social and economic development issues directly related to the alleviation of poverty, and (b) the development of appropriate strategies and policies to improve the quality of life of the poor.

B. Under the overall supervision of the Commission, the Committee would:

1. Review and analyse the global and regional trends and developments that have an impact on the poverty situation in the region, with focus on their correlates in both the rural and urban contexts, and recommend development policy options and programme strategies.

2. Serve as a mobilizer of ideas and a catalyst for action in undertaking measures aimed at alleviating poverty in both rural and urban areas through the promotion of people's participation, including that of women and socially and economically disadvantaged groups, and capacity-building of national and local institutions and communities as well as human resources, and other means. Specifically, the Committee will recommend policy options and identify programmes that would address population issues and concerns; social development issues and concerns; human resources development; women in development; increased access to employment, education, health, shelter and credit; agricultural growth, especially through environmentally-friendly inputs; the use of appropriate technologies; devolution of authority and participatory urban management and governance.

3. Accelerate follow-up to the decisions and recommendations of global conferences at the national, subregional and regional levels; monitor and evaluate progress in their implementation and provide guidance on the implementation of the regional action programmes relevant to the work of the Committee, *inter alia*, on population, social development, human resources development, rural development, women and urbanization.

4. Review the implementation and effectiveness of the programme of work of the secretariat and make recommendations to the Commission about future programmes of work, and in this process ensure that cross-sectoral issues such as special concerns of the least developed, landlocked and Pacific island developing countries and economies in transition, the environment, human resources development, and women in development, are adequately addressed.

5. Promote liaison with development agencies and financial institutions, private sector organizations, non-governmental organizations, and donor countries, within and outside the region, in its efforts and initiatives to deal with the issues of poverty alleviation in both the rural and urban areas.

6. Work closely with other subsidiary organs of the Commission and coordinate its activities with them.

7. Carry out such other activities as the Commission may direct from time to time in matters relating to poverty alleviation.

8. Promote liaison with relevant agencies of the United Nations system, with a view to minimizing overlapping and duplication, and strengthening cooperation with other organizations and other bodies at the subregional, regional and global levels to maximize the effectiveness and impact of the Commission's activities.

Within the context of its terms of reference, the Committee should identify the tasks to be undertaken during a specified period. The Committee should indicate the outcomes expected from each task, set a time-frame for the achievement of each task and monitor its implementation and effectiveness.

The Committee shall meet annually, focusing on a limited number of pre-selected issues, and shall report to the Commission.

Annex V

TERMS OF REFERENCE OF THE COMMITTEE ON ENVIRONMENT AND NATURAL RESOURCES DEVELOPMENT

A. The main objectives of the Committee on Environment and Natural Resources Development will be to promote regional and subregional cooperation for sustainable development and to strengthen national capacities in the field of the environment, including integration of environmental concerns into development strategies, in line with the provisions of Agenda 21 and other subsequent decisions; development and management of natural resources, including water, mineral and energy resources (excluding infrastructural aspects of electric power); diffusion and management of environmentally sound technologies; space technology applications; and natural disaster reduction.

B. Under the overall supervision of the Commission, the Committee shall perform the following specific functions:

1. Review and assess the state of the environment in the region and, where a regional perspective on the issues provides a clear advantage, highlight the major environmental concerns with a view to encouraging the integration of environmental concerns into development policies, strategies, plans and programmes of members and associate members, at both the macroeconomic and sectoral levels.

2. Review and identify priority issues, assess progress, and promote regional and subregional cooperation in the development and management of water, mineral and energy resources, and in the application of space technologies, keeping in view the need for ensuring sustainable development; and make recommendations on policies, strategies, methods and techniques for the proper investigation, development, utilization and management of those resources.

3. Promote regional and subregional cooperation in environmental protection and natural disaster reduction, and encourage members and associate members to undertake their assessment of risks from natural hazards and to integrate the outcomes of such assessments into their development plans.

4. Promote opportunities for and provide guidance on the transfer and adoption of environmentally sound technologies, their diffusion, as well as management and operational practices to contribute to the strengthening of national capacities in achieving sustainable development.

5. Encourage the setting of standards and the strengthening of legal frameworks for the development and management of natural resources, and promote the application of environmental safeguards in manufacturing and product development.

6. Review the salient issues in the regional strategies and action programmes emerging from recent global conferences, international conventions and agreements; monitor the implementation of Agenda 21 at the regional level; and articulate the region's response to relevant global initiatives, ensuring that such initiatives support the development of the region.

7. Review the implementation and effectiveness of the programme of work of the secretariat and make recommendations to the Commission about future programmes of work, and in this process ensure that cross-sectoral issues such as special concerns of the least developed, landlocked and Pacific island developing countries, and economies in transition, human resources development, and women in development, are adequately addressed.

8. Promote liaison with relevant agencies of the United Nations system, with a view to minimizing overlapping and duplication, and strengthening cooperation with other organizations and other bodies at the subregional, regional and global levels to maximize the effectiveness and impact of the Commission's activities.

9. Work closely with other subsidiary organs of the Commission and coordinate its activities with them.

10. Carry out such other activities as the Commission may direct from time to time in matters relating to the environment and natural resources development.

Within the context of its terms of reference, the Committee should identify the tasks to be undertaken during a specified period. The Committee should indicate the outcomes expected from each task, set a time-frame for the achievement of each task and monitor its implementation and effectiveness.

The Committee shall meet annually, focusing on a limited number of pre-selected areas on a rotating basis, and shall report to the Commission.

Annex VI

TERMS OF REFERENCE OF THE COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORT, COMMUNICATIONS, TOURISM AND INFRASTRUCTURE DEVELOPMENT

A. The rapid growth in regional economies, trade and tourism is placing considerable strain on infrastructure facilities and services. It is also highlighting the importance of intraregional and interregional transport linkages as well as appropriate facilitation measures to ensure efficient utilization of regional linkages.

In the context of these developments, the Committee will address the following areas: roads, railways, urban transport, ports, shipping, inland waterways, dredging, multimodal transport, including freight forwarding, tourism, and the infrastructural aspects of electric power.

B. Under the overall supervision of the Commission, the Committee would:

1. Review and analyse global and regional trends and developments that have an impact on transport, communications, tourism and infrastructure development in the ESCAP region.

2. Serve as a mobilizer of ideas and a catalyst for action in the transport, communications, tourism and infrastructure development sectors; recommend policy options to achieve tangible results in improving the efficient provision, management, operation, maintenance and pricing of transport, tourism facilities, infrastructure and services, taking into account equity, safety and environmental considerations; promote intraregional and interregional transport linkages, and in particular the Asian Highway and Trans-Asian Railway, services, facilitation measures and tourism; and enhance national capacities.

3. Accelerate follow-up to the decisions and recommendations of global conferences at the national, subregional and regional levels; evaluate progress and provide guidance on the implementation of the New Delhi Action Plan on Infrastructure Development in Asia and the Pacific being coordinated by ESCAP. In this connection, aspects of work on civil aviation, telecommunications and postal services carried out by the specialized agencies in relation to the implementation of the Action Plan would also be addressed by the Committee.

4. Promote liaison with international financing institutions, concerned private sector organizations and non-governmental organizations, to assist in the development of transport, communications, tourism and electric power infrastructure and services.

5. Review the implementation and effectiveness of the programme of work of the secretariat, and make recommendations to the Commission about future programmes of work, and in this process ensure that cross-sectoral issues such as the special concerns of the least developed, landlocked and Pacific island developing countries and economies in transition, the environment, human resources development, socially and economically disadvantaged groups, and women in development, are adequately addressed.

6. Work closely with other subsidiary organs of the Commission and coordinate its activities with them.

7. Promote liaison with relevant agencies of the United Nations system, with a view to minimizing overlapping and duplication, and strengthening cooperation with other organizations and other bodies at the subregional, regional and global levels to maximize the effectiveness and impact of the Commission's activities.

8. Carry out such other activities as the Commission may direct from time to time in matters relating to transport, communications, tourism and infrastructure development.

Within the context of its terms of reference, the Committee should identify the tasks to be undertaken during a specified period. The Committee should indicate the outcomes expected from each task, set a time-frame for the achievement of each task and monitor its implementation and effectiveness.

The Committee shall meet annually and focus on specific pre-selected sectors, and present its report to the Commission as a background document to facilitate discussion.

Annex VII

TERMS OF REFERENCE OF THE COMMITTEE ON STATISTICS

A. The Committee on Statistics, in acting as the focus of regional statistical development, shall perform the following functions:

1. Review and analyse progress in the development of statistics in the region.

2. Assist in the strengthening of the statistical infrastructure in the countries of the region, promote the improvement of the quality of statistics, the international comparability of data and the appropriate application of new techniques, provide guidance in meeting emerging data requirements, and arrange for the exchange of information on and experiences in statistical work and methods among the countries.

3. Promote observance of the fundamental principles of official statistics adopted by the United Nations Statistical Commission at its special session in 1994.

4. Participate actively in the initiation, development, revision, testing and implementation of international statistical standards, promote and monitor their application, and promote their adaptation, as appropriate, to the conditions and needs of the countries of the region.

5. Play the focal role in promoting close coordination of all aspects of the statistical activities of specialized agencies, relevant United Nations bodies and other international organizations in regard to their work in the Asian and Pacific region, *inter alia* so as to achieve greater uniformity in concepts and definitions, reduce to a minimum the response burden on national statistical offices, and maximize the effectiveness of technical cooperation activities.

6. Promote the generation and analysis of statistical data and encourage, with due regard to relevant international work, efforts to develop a set of standardized statistical indicators for the region relevant to the programme of work of the Commission.

7. Recommend programmes of technical assistance, training, education and research in the various fields of statistics and their application.

8. Review and analyse progress in the development of information technology applications and information resource management in the region, especially in the public sector, and make recommendations on issues concerning policies and strategies, as well as on programmes of technical assistance, training and research in this field.

9. Review and evaluate the activities of the secretariat and the implementation and effectiveness of the programme of work in the areas of statistics and computerized information processing, provide guidance on the work of the secretariat, and make recommendations to the Commission about the future programme of work, paying due regard to the recommendations of the United Nations Statistical Commission and other relevant bodies.

10. Make recommendations to the Governing Board of the Statistical Institute for Asia and the Pacific on the nature of and priorities in statistical training for the countries of the region.

11. Inform the United Nations Statistical Commission and, where appropriate, the statistical authorities of the specialized agencies and other relevant bodies, of its work, so that due attention may be given to the wider aspects of the issues considered by the Committee.

12. Work closely with other subsidiary organs of the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific, coordinate activities with them, and ensure that cross-sectoral issues such as the special concerns of the least developed, landlocked, Pacific island developing countries and economies in transition, the environment, human resources development, and women in development are adequately addressed.

13. Carry out such other activities as the Commission may direct from time to time in matters relating to statistics.

Within the context of the above terms of reference, the Committee shall identify the tasks to be undertaken during a specified period. The Committee should indicate the outcomes expected from each task, set a time-frame for the achievement of each task and monitor its implementation and effectiveness.

The Committee shall meet once every two years and shall report to the Commission.

Annex VIII

TERMS OF REFERENCE OF THE SPECIAL BODY ON LEAST DEVELOPED AND LANDLOCKED DEVELOPING COUNTRIES

A. The special problems and constraints on the economic and social development of the least developed and landlocked developing countries have been recognized by the international community, and also within the context of the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the 1990s, the International Development Strategy and other international declarations. These constraints require focused priority attention in the Asian and Pacific region in order to mainstream them into the ongoing regional integration process and to associate them with the economic and social dynamism of the region. The Special Body on Least Developed and Landlocked Developing Countries provides a focused forum for addressing the special issues and problems facing these groups of countries in the spirit of regional cooperation.

B. Under the overall supervision of the Commission, the Special Body will:

1. Review and analyse the economic and social progress in the least developed and landlocked developing countries and undertake in-depth reviews of economic, social and environmental constraints on the development of least developed and landlocked developing countries.

2. Serve as a mobilizer of ideas and a catalyst for action to identify and promote new policy options at the national, subregional and regional levels for the removal of constraints on the economic and social development efforts of these countries, with emphasis on the adoption of measures for increased mobilization of domestic and foreign resources, trade and private sector development, public sector reform, and provision of economic advice, on request, to governments with limited internal capacity.

3. Assist in enhancing national capacities in least developed and landlocked developing countries, including in relation to the formulation of development strategies at the national and sectoral levels.

4. Foster and strengthen intercountry cooperation arrangements for exchanges of experience and technical cooperation between and among the least developed and landlocked countries and with other developing and developed countries in the region.

5. Without duplicating work done elsewhere, review and analyse the special transit trade and transport problems of Asian landlocked developing countries, recommend suitable measures for solving these problems in accordance with international legal instruments, in particular article 125 of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea, and encourage the Asian landlocked developing countries and their transit neighbours to deal with problems within the context of bilateral cooperation.

6. Promote liaison with development agencies and financial institutions, private sector organizations, non-governmental organizations and donor countries within and outside the region, in its initiatives and activities for the benefit of the least developed and landlocked developing countries.

7. Review the implementation and effectiveness of the programme of work of the secretariat and make recommendations to the Commission about future programmes of work, and in this process, ensure that cross-sectoral issues such as the environment, human resources development and women in development are adequately addressed.

8. Accelerate follow-up to the decisions and recommendations of global conferences on least developed countries at the national, subregional and regional levels, in particular the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the 1990s and any successor programme.

9. Promote liaison with relevant agencies of the United Nations system, with a view to minimizing overlapping and duplication, and strengthening cooperation with other organizations and other bodies at the subregional, regional and global levels to maximize the effectiveness and impact of the Commission's activities.

10. Work closely with other subsidiary organs of the Commission and coordinate its activities with them.

11. Carry out such other functions as the Commission may direct from time to time in matters relating to least developed and landlocked developing countries.

Within the context of its terms of reference, the Special Body should identify the tasks to be undertaken during a specified period. The Special Body should indicate the outcomes expected from each task, set a time-frame for the achievement of each task and monitor its implementation and effectiveness.

The Special Body shall meet biennially for two days, back-to-back with the Commission sessions, in alternate years with the Special Body on Pacific Island Developing Countries.

Annex IX

TERMS OF REFERENCE OF THE SPECIAL BODY ON PACIFIC ISLAND DEVELOPING COUNTRIES

A. The special problems and constraints on the economic and social development of the Pacific island developing countries related to their isolation, small size and vulnerability to environmental hazards have been recognized by the international community, and also within the context of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States and other international declarations. These constraints require focused priority attention in order to mainstream them into the ongoing regional integration process and to associate them with the economic and social dynamism of the region. The Special Body on Pacific Island Developing Countries provides a focused forum for addressing the special issues and problems facing this group of countries in the spirit of regional cooperation.

B. Under the overall supervision of the Commission, the Special Body will:

1. Review and analyse the economic and social progress in the Pacific island developing countries and undertake in-depth reviews of economic, social and environmental constraints on their development.

2. Serve as a mobilizer of ideas and a catalyst for action to identify and promote new policy options at the national, subregional and regional levels for the removal of constraints on the economic and social development efforts of these countries.

3. Assist in enhancing national capacities of Pacific island developing countries, including in relation to the formulation of development strategies at the national and sectoral levels.

4. Foster and strengthen intercountry and inter-subregional cooperation arrangements for exchanges of experience and technical cooperation between and among the Pacific island developing countries and with other developing and developed countries in the region.

5. Promote liaison, particularly through the ESCAP Pacific Operations Centre, with development agencies and financial institutions, private sector organizations, non-governmental organizations and donor countries within and outside the region, in its initiatives and activities for the benefit of the Pacific island developing countries.

6. Review the implementation and effectiveness of the programme of work of the secretariat and make recommendations to the Commission about future programmes of work, and in this process, ensure that cross-sectoral issues such as the environment, human resources development and women in development are adequately addressed.

7. Accelerate follow-up to the decisions and recommendations of global conferences on small island developing countries at the national, subregional and regional levels, in particular the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States.

8. Promote liaison with relevant agencies of the United Nations system, with a view to minimizing overlapping and duplication, and strengthening cooperation with other organizations and bodies at the subregional, regional and global levels to maximize the effectiveness and impact of the Commission's activities.

9. Work closely with other subsidiary organs of the Commission and coordinate its activities with them.

10. Carry out such other functions as the Commission may direct from time to time in matters relating to Pacific island developing countries.

Within the context of its terms of reference, the Special Body should identify the tasks to be undertaken during a specified period. The Special Body should indicate the outcomes expected from each task, set a time-frame for the achievement of each task and monitor its implementation and effectiveness.

The Special Body shall meet for two days biennially, back-to-back with the annual sessions of the Commission, in alternate years with the Special Body on Least Developed and Landlocked Developing Countries.

53/2. Implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action for the advancement of women[2]

The Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific,

Recalling General Assembly resolutions 50/203 of 22 December 1995 and 51/69 of 12 December 1996 on the follow-up to the Fourth World Conference on Women and full implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action,

Bearing in mind its resolution 52/3 of 24 April 1996 on the follow-up to the Fourth World Conference on Women, in which it urged all members and associate members to ensure full implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action in coordination with the implementation of the Jakarta Declaration and Plan of Action for the Advancement of Women in Asia and the Pacific, by strengthening national machineries for the advancement of women to enhance their effectiveness in promoting mainstreaming of gender concerns into policy formulation and planning for national development,

Noting that the Platform for Action recommends that regional commissions should promote and assist the pertinent national institutions in monitoring and implementing the global Platform for Action within their mandates and that this should be done in coordination with the implementation of the respective regional platforms or plans of action,

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[2] See para. 201 above.

Noting also that the Platform for Action calls upon regional and international organizations to provide financial and advisory assistance to national machineries in order to increase their ability to gather information, develop networks and carry out their mandates,

Recalling also that in its resolution 52/3, the Commission called for the promotion of measures to alleviate and eradicate the feminization of poverty, which was recognized as a critical area of concern in the Jakarta Declaration and Plan of Action and in the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action,

Recalling further General Assembly resolution 51/66 of 12 December 1996 and all other resolutions adopted by the General Assembly, the Commission on the Status of Women and the Commission on Human Rights on the subject of the traffic in women and children,

Stressing the need to integrate a gender perspective into the coordinated follow-up to recent international conferences, including the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, held at Rio de Janeiro, Brazil in 1992, the World Conference on Human Rights, held at Vienna in 1993, the International Conference on Population and Development, held at Cairo in 1994, the World Summit for Social Development, held at Copenhagen in 1995 and the United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II), held at Istanbul, Turkey in 1996, which recognized the important role of women in economic and social development,

Noting with satisfaction the secretariat's monitoring of the regional implementation of the Platform for Action,

Welcoming the establishment of the Inter-agency Committee on Women and Gender Equality of the Administrative Committee on Coordination in 1996 and noting with satisfaction the work of the Subcommittee on the Advancement of Women of the Regional Inter-agency Committee for Asia and the Pacific, which was established in 1995 in response to Commission resolution 51/7 of 1 May 1995,

Also welcoming the convening in Seoul in September 1996 of the Regional Meeting on Strengthening National Machineries for the Advancement of Women, which, in order to strengthen regional mechanisms, recommended that a resolution should be submitted to the Commission at its fifty-third session (a) supporting the holding every two years of the regional meeting of national machineries for the advancement of women, (b) requesting the Government of Viet Nam to consider hosting the meeting in 1998, and (c) requesting the Government of the Republic of Korea to provide the Korean Women's Development Institute as a secretariat/information centre for the national machineries to complement and supplement the services being provided by ESCAP in the exchange and flow of information among the members and associate members of the Commission,

1. *Calls upon* all members and associate members to accelerate the implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action in coordination with the Jakarta Declaration and Plan of Action for the Advancement of Women in Asia and the Pacific:

(a) By strengthening national machineries for the advancement of women to enhance their role in mainstreaming a gender perspective into national plans and policies, policy formulation and planning, monitoring and evaluation, and in information and communications;

(b) By preparing and implementing national strategies and plans of action for the Platform for Action;

(c) By monitoring and evaluating implementation of the Platform for Action through performance indicators, gender-disaggregated data and other assessment instruments;

(d) By enhancing cooperation, collaboration and partnership among all levels of government and civil society, including non-governmental organizations and community-based organizations;

2. *Urges* all donor countries, the private sector, funding agencies and regional and international financial institutions to assist developing countries, particularly the least developed, landlocked and island developing economies and the disadvantaged economies in transition, in implementing the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and the Jakarta Declaration and Plan of Action;

3. *Requests* the Executive Secretary:

(a) To implement the recommendations on strengthening regional mechanisms adopted at the Regional Meeting on Strengthening National Machineries for the Advancement of Women, held at Seoul in September 1996 and, in particular, to convene a regional meeting of national machineries for the advancement of women every two years and to approach the Government of Viet Nam to consider hosting the meeting in 1998;

(b) To continue to promote measures to alleviate and eradicate the feminization of poverty, particularly on increasing access to productive resources, capacity-building, empowerment and social mobilization;

(c) To consider holding, in cooperation with relevant agencies of the United Nations system, a regional conference on trafficking in women and children;

(d) To continue to promote technical cooperation among developing countries by urging developing countries in Asia and the Pacific to contribute resources to accelerate the implementation of the Platform for Action;

4. *Also requests* the Executive Secretary to report to the Commission at its fifty-fourth session on the implementation of the present resolution.

11th meeting
30 April 1997

53/3. Framework for the North-East Asian Subregional Programme of Environmental Cooperation[3]

The Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific,

Recalling its resolution 50/8 of 13 April 1994 on the strengthening of subregional economic cooperation in North-East Asia, including environmental cooperation for sustainable development,

Recalling also its resolution 52/8 of 24 April 1996 on the third Ministerial Conference on Environment and Development in Asia and the Pacific, in which it endorsed the recommendations of the Conference, including the Ministerial Declaration on Environmentally Sound and Sustainable Development in Asia and the Pacific and the Regional Action Programme for Environmentally Sound and Sustainable Development, 1996-2000,

Recognizing the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development and Agenda 21, as adopted at the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, held at Rio de Janeiro, Brazil in 1992, which continue to provide general policy guidance on subregional environmental cooperation in North-East Asia,

Noting with satisfaction the Third Meeting of Senior Officials on Environmental Cooperation in North-East Asia, held at Ulaanbaatar in September 1996, in which the six countries of the subregion, China, the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Japan, Mongolia, the Republic of Korea and the Russian Federation, for the first time came to a consensus and adopted the Framework for the North-East Asian Subregional Programme of Environmental Cooperation,

Welcoming decision 19/19 of 7 February 1997 on the Framework, adopted by the Governing Council of the United Nations Environment Programme at its nineteenth session, held at Nairobi in January-February 1997,

1. *Welcomes* the Framework for the North-East Asian Subregional Programme of Environmental Cooperation, as adopted by the Third Meeting of Senior Officials on Environmental Cooperation in North-East Asia, held at Ulaanbaatar in September 1996;

2. *Calls upon* the participating parties to the Programme, through the existing Meeting of Senior Officials on Environmental Cooperation in North-East Asia, to work towards practical institutional and financial arrangements for the Programme, as appropriate, including striving to reach a consensus on establishing a trust fund to be funded by donors, collaborating agencies and participating parties on a voluntary basis;

3. *Requests* the Executive Secretary to continue ESCAP efforts, in collaboration with the United Nations Development Programme, the United Nations Environment Programme, the World Bank and the Asian Development Bank, to promote subregional environmental cooperation in North-East Asia, *inter alia*, by providing technical and financial support for the implementation of the Framework and approved priority projects;

4. *Also requests* the Executive Secretary to continue to provide secretariat support to the Meeting of Senior Officials, in collaboration with the United Nations Development Programme, the United Nations Environment Programme, the World Bank, the Asian Development Bank and other relevant institutions, in the interim period pending the final decision on the future institutional arrangements of the Programme;

5. *Decides* that the present resolution should be transmitted to the General Assembly at its special session on overall review and appraisal of Agenda 21, to be held in New York from 23 to 27 June 1997, as a substantive input outlining subregional cooperation on the environment in North-East Asia.

11th meeting
30 April 1997

53/4. Elimination of sexual abuse and sexual exploitation of children and youth in Asia and the Pacific[4]

The Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific,

Recalling General Assembly resolution 50/81 of 14 December 1995, in which the Assembly adopted the World Programme of Action for Youth to the Year 2000 and Beyond, which called upon governments to cooperate at the international level and take effective steps, including specific preventive measures to protect children, adolescents and youth from all types of exploitation and abuse,

[3] See para. 156 above.

[4] See para. 176 above.

Bearing in mind that States Parties to the Convention on the Rights of the Child agreed to take action to protect the child from all forms of sexual exploitation and sexual abuse,

Taking note of the recommendation of the Asia-Pacific Meeting on Human Resources Development for Youth, convened by ESCAP in cooperation with the Government of China, in Beijing in October 1996, which called upon the secretariat to promote regional cooperation in eliminating the sexual exploitation and sexual abuse of youth in the Asian and Pacific region,

Recalling that the World Congress against Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children, held at Stockholm in August 1996, gave its commitment to mobilize national and international communities, including intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations, to assist countries in eliminating the commercial sexual exploitation of children,

Considering the high priority accorded to action against the commercial sexual exploitation of children and youth in the Declaration and Agenda for Action of the World Congress,

Noting with concern that while prostitution and trafficking in children and youth are illegal and deemed immoral in many countries, the practice continues unabated,

Recognizing that prostitution and trafficking in children and youth have taken a transnational dimension, including promotion via new technologies such as the Internet, necessitating international and regional action to address this phenomenon effectively,

Taking note of the findings from the preparatory work for the World Congress that sexual exploitation of children and youth by tourists and others can in some cases be highly organized and extremely profitable while carrying only low risks of prosecution and punishment,

Acknowledging the relevant activities being undertaken by other forums to address various aspects of the sexual exploitation of children and youth, including in the context of efforts to combat exploitative forms of child labour and the drafting of an optional protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the sexual exploitation of children,

Also acknowledging the difficulty in obtaining accurate data on the extent and nature of the practice, given its illegal and socially unacceptable nature,

Underscoring the indubitably harmful effects of prostitution on every aspect of the development of children and youth, as well as family values and cultural mores,

Recognizing the risk to young commercial sex workers of contracting sexually transmitted diseases, including HIV/AIDS,

1. *Encourages* member and associate member Governments:

(a) To mobilize their agencies and members of civil society in combating the sexual exploitation and sexual abuse of children and youth in their respective countries and in tourist destinations;

(b) To suggest areas for technical cooperation programme development and implementation, including enforcement practices in relation to combating prostitution and trafficking in children and youth;

(c) To encourage the tourism industry in their respective countries to adopt the necessary mechanisms to prevent sex tourism involving children and youth;

(d) To pay great attention to the deterrence and punishment of sexual exploiters of children and youth; under the principle that a crime against a child anywhere should be a crime everywhere, as recommended by the Amsterdam Child Labour Conference, held in February 1997, all member States should ensure that sexual abuse and sexual exploitation of children and youth are never tolerated and should take action to prosecute sexual exploiters of children and youth where the crime is committed;

(e) To implement programmes and projects that take into account the best interests of children and youth and promote the protection of their rights, in accordance with international standards and agreements;

2. *Encourages* donor governments and agencies to fund projects that seek to prevent the sexual exploitation and sexual abuse of children and youth, and assist young victims of such exploitation and abuse in reintegrating into communities and families, obtaining access to relevant education, health and social services, and developing skills for alternative means of livelihood;

3. *Requests* the Executive Secretary:

(a) To consider making an inventory of data on the commercial sexual exploitation and sexual abuse of children and youth in the region, the extent and measures taken to stop the practice, and the range of health and social services available to them, with the aim of identifying gaps in research and practice, and thereby facilitating regional and intercountry cooperation;

(b) To sensitize and promote awareness among government personnel and other members of civil society, including youth non-governmental organizations and the private sector, about the situation of sexually exploited and sexually abused children and youth, with a view to supporting human resources development policies and programmes to improve access to relevant health and social services, education and training, and employment;

(c) To enhance the capabilities of social service and health personnel, through relevant gender-sensitive training, in assisting young victims and potential victims of sexual exploitation and sexual abuse in being reintegrated into society;

(d) To coordinate its activities in this field closely with other United Nations bodies, and inter-governmental and non-governmental organizations, including the working group of the Commission on Human Rights on a draft optional protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the sexual exploitation of children, the Special Rapporteur of the Commission on Human Rights on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography, the Committee on the Rights of the Child, the United Nations Children's Fund and the International Labour Organization, in order to avoid duplication;

(e) To report to the Commission at its fifty-fourth session on the implementation of the present resolution.

11th meeting
30 April 1997

Annex I

PROGRAMME OF WORK, 1998-1999

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Annex I

PROGRAMME OF WORK, 1998-1999

Subprogramme 1. Regional economic cooperation: trade and investment

Overview and summary of activities

This subprogramme comprises activities related to trade and investment. Such activities had been carried out in 1996-1997 under subprogramme 1, Regional economic cooperation. The legislative authority for the activities under this subprogramme derives from subprogramme 15.1, Regional economic cooperation: trade and investment, of the medium-term plan for the period 1998-2001.

The focus of work under this subprogramme will be on implementing the Action Programme for Regional Economic Cooperation in Trade and Investment. The envisaged policy analyses seek to address the emerging challenges and opportunities in the region in the light of regional and global developments in order to facilitate exchange of experience and best practices through dissemination of research, and extension of technical assistance and advisory services. Emphasis will continue to be placed on issues arising from the implementation of the Uruguay Round agreements and their implications for the region. There will also be special focus on promotion of regional cooperation for enhancing trade efficiency and electronic commerce, as well as promotion of exports of developing countries with particular attention to the areas of commodities, textiles and exports of small and medium-sized enterprises. In this context, special emphasis will be devoted to the needs of the least developed, landlocked and island developing countries and the disadvantaged economies in transition. More specifically, activities will aim at assisting the least developed countries in harmonizing their trade liberalization commitments with their national priorities and realizing the full potential of their exports in areas where they have comparative advantage; the Pacific island developing countries, in diversifying their trade and economic links; and the disadvantaged economies in transition, particularly of the Commonwealth of Independent States, in renewing their intra-trade relations and their economic integration into the region. The proposed activities are also aimed at enhancing institutional capacity-building and strengthening networks of institutions which support trade and investment flows. In addition, activities will be undertaken to promote private capital flows for trade-related investment including through the development of capital markets. Cooperation between countries will be encouraged to promote capital market development in the developing countries of the region, which would include the economies in transition. Activities will also address the need for strengthening regional information services for trade and investment as well as the promotion of intraregional and interregional cooperation aimed at expanding trade and information flows.

The work will be carried out by the International Trade and Economic Cooperation Division under the guidance of the Committee on Regional Economic Cooperation.

Activities:

I. Servicing of intergovernmental and expert bodies (RB)

1. Substantive servicing of meetings:

(a) Commission:

1-1-101 Plenary and committees (1998) (8 meetings: 6 plenary and 2 committee sessions)

1-1-102 Plenary and committees (1999) (8 meetings: 6 plenary and 2 committee sessions)

(b) Committee on Regional Economic Cooperation:

1-1-103 Plenary (1999) (6 meetings)

(c) Steering Group of the Committee on Regional Economic Cooperation:

1-1-104 Plenary (1998) (6 meetings)

1-1-105 Plenary (1999) (6 meetings)

(d) Consultative Meeting among the Executive Heads of Subregional Organizations and ESCAP:

1-1-106 Plenary (1998) (4 meetings)

1-1-107 Plenary (1999) (4 meetings)

(e) Standing Committee of the Bangkok Agreement:

1-1-108 Plenary (1998) (6 meetings)

1-1-109 Plenary (1999) (6 meetings)

2. Parliamentary documentation:

(a) Commission:

1-1-201 Report of the Committee on Regional Economic Cooperation (1999)

1-1-202 Report of the Steering Group of the Committee on Regional Economic Cooperation (1998)

1-1-203 Report on issues related to trade and investment (1998, 1999)

(b) Committee on Regional Economic Cooperation:

1-1-204 Report on issues related to trade and investment (1999)

1-1-205 Report of the Steering Group of the Committee on Regional Economic Cooperation (1999)

(c) Steering Group of the Committee on Regional Economic Cooperation:

1-1-206 Report on issues related to trade and investment (1998, 1999)

(d) Consultative Meeting among the Executive Heads of Subregional Organizations and ESCAP:

1-1-207 Report on issues related to promotion of inter-subregional cooperation (1998, 1999)

(e) Standing Committee of the Bangkok Agreement:

1-1-208 Report on developments in trade and investment in the Asian and Pacific region (1998, 1999)

3. Ad hoc expert groups and related preparatory work:

1-1-301 Ad hoc expert group on institutional issues for trade facilitation and electronic commerce (1998)

1-1-302 Ad hoc expert group on regional trade and investment information networking (1999)

1-1-303 Ad hoc expert group on commodity-related issues (1998)

II. Other substantive activities (RB/XB)

1. Mandated recurrent publications:

1-2-101 TISNET Trade and Investment Information Bulletin (12 in 1998, 12 in 1999) (RB/XB)

1-2-102 Directory of Trade and Investment Related Organizations of Developing Countries in Asia and the Pacific, 9th edition (1999) (RB)

1-2-103 Trade Review of the Bangkok Agreement (1998, 1999) (RB)

3. Mandated non-recurrent publications:

1-2-301 Traders' manuals and guidebooks for Asia and the Pacific (3 in 1998, 3 in 1999) (RB/XB)

4. *Discretionary non-recurrent publications:*

1-2-401 Monograph series on studies in trade and investment (6 in 1998, 5 in 1999) (RB/XB)

5. *Electronic, audio and video issuances, including films, videotapes, radio broadcasts, tapes of news, documentary and feature programmes:*

1-2-501 ESCAP Homepage on Trade Facilitation Information Exchange on the World Wide Web (1998, 1999) (RB)

7. *Booklets, pamphlets, fact sheets, wall charts, information kits:*

1-2-701 Information material on trade policy and trade promotion issues (1998, 1999) (RB/XB)

1-2-702 Information material on ASPAT'98 and ASPAT'99 (1998, 1999) (RB/XB)

8. *Technical material for outside users (databases, software etc.):*

1-2-801 Training material on electronic commerce issues with a focus on small business enterprises, for facilitating international trade in the region (1998, 1999) (RB/XB)

1-2-802 Technical information in response to requests from the public and private sectors and non-governmental organizations (1998, 1999) (RB/XB)

1-2-803 Training material on the Asia-Pacific Information Exchange (1998) (RB/XB)

III. International cooperation and inter-agency coordination and liaison (RB/XB)

1-3-001 Collaboration with intergovernmental organizations, including WTO, ACU, ADB, ARC, ASEAN, ECO, Forum Secretariat, SAARC and SPC as well as non-governmental organizations (6 in 1998, 6 in 1999) (RB/XB)

1-3-002 Collaboration with United Nations bodies and specialized agencies, including UNCTAD, UNDP, FAO, UNIDO and International Trade Centre UNCTAD/WTO, on matters related to trade and investment (3 in 1998, 3 in 1999) (RB/XB)

1-3-003 Collaboration with regional commissions in the areas of trade and investment in developing interregional linkages and in promoting information exchange and cooperation (1998, 1999) (RB/XB)

1-3-004 Technical and substantive support to the ESCAP network on trade facilitation bodies (1998, 1999) (RB/XB)

1-3-005 Technical and substantive support to regional commodity arrangements (2 in 1998, 2 in 1999) (RB)

1-3-006 Organization and servicing of the RICAP Subcommittee on Trade and Investment (1998, 1999) (RB)

IV. Technical cooperation (RB/XB)

1. *Advisory services at the request of the governments:*

1-4-101 Advisory services on strengthening trade and investment information networking: infrastructure and management (1998, 1999) (RB/XB)

1-4-102 Advisory services for promoting investment opportunities, including through capital market development (11 in 1998, 7 in 1999) (RB)*

Note: * TNC activities decentralized from UNCTAD with commensurate resources.

2. *Group training (seminars, workshops, symposia):*

1-4-201 Regional seminars/workshops/symposia/expert group meetings on challenges arising from the Uruguay Round agreements, including assistance for accession of non-WTO members (4 in 1998, 3 in 1999) (RB/XB)

1-4-202 Regional seminars on promotion of exports of developing countries, with emphasis on least developed, landlocked and island developing countries and disadvantaged economies in transition (3 in 1998, 3 in 1999) (RB/XB)

1-4-203 Regional seminar on promotion of commodity trade through the use of market-based mechanisms (1999) (RB/XB)

1-4-204 Regional workshops on strengthening trade and investment information networking: infrastructure and management (2 in 1998, 2 in 1999) (RB/XB)

1-4-205 Regional/national workshops on enhancement of regional cooperation in trade facilitation and electronic commerce (1998, 1999) (RB/XB)

1-4-206 Regional seminars on promotion of ECDC/TCDC and tripartite cooperation in trade and investment (1 in 1998, 2 in 1999) (RB/XB)

1-4-207 Seminars on strengthening intra-subregional cooperation and inter-subregional linkages in trade and investment (2 in 1998, 1 in 1999) (RB/XB)

1-4-208 Regional seminar on the development of stock markets (1998) (RB/XB)*

1-4-209 Regional seminars/workshops on enhancing the international competitiveness of export-oriented small and medium-sized enterprises through promotion of sustainable development policies (2 in 1998, 1 in 1999) (RB/XB)

1-4-210 Interregional seminar on promotion of economic cooperation among the littoral States of the Bay of Bengal in the context of wider cooperation in the Indian Ocean basin (1999) (RB/XB)

1-4-211 Regional seminar on market access issues in the context of special trading arrangements and WTO (1998) (RB/XB)

1-4-212 Workshops on enhancing national institutional capacity and regional networks supporting trade and investment flows (2 in 1998, 4 in 1999) (RB/XB)

1-4-213 Seminar/symposium on promotion of interregional cooperation on issues concerning the regional and global trading and investment environment (1998, 1999) (RB/XB)

Subprogramme 2. Regional economic cooperation: research and policy analysis

Overview and summary of activities

This subprogramme comprises activities related to research and policy analysis. Such activities had been carried out in 1996-1997 under subprogramme 1, Regional economic cooperation, subprogramme 2, Environment and sustainable development, and subprogramme 3, Poverty alleviation through economic growth and social development. The legislative authority for the activities under this subprogramme derives from subprogramme 15.2, Regional economic cooperation: research and policy analysis, of the medium-term plan for the period 1998-2001.

The main objectives of the subprogramme are to increase understanding of the economic and social development situation in the region and to contribute to the awareness and understanding on the part of national policy makers of the constraints on sustained economic growth, poverty alleviation and the integration of environmental concerns into macroeconomic decision- and policy-making processes. Special attention will be paid to the problems of integrating the region's disadvantaged economies, such as those in transition, into the region's economic mainstream.

Note: * TNC activity decentralized from UNCTAD with commensurate resources.

Documentation and substantive services will be provided to the Commission, the Committee on Regional Economic Cooperation, the Committee on Environment and Natural Resources Development and the Committee on Socio-economic Measures to Alleviate Poverty in Rural and Urban Areas.

Recurrent and non-recurrent publications will be prepared. Technical assistance in the areas outlined above will be formulated and implemented with the aim of translating into action the strong desires of the countries of the region to cooperate among themselves in sharing experience in practices and policies for tackling common issues.

The work will be carried out by the Development Research and Policy Analysis Division under the guidance of the Committee on Regional Economic Cooperation, the Committee on Environment and Natural Resources Development and the Committee on Socio-economic Measures to Alleviate Poverty in Rural and Urban Areas.

Activities:

I. Servicing of intergovernmental and expert bodies (RB)

1. Substantive servicing of meetings:

(a) Commission:

2-1-101 Plenary and committees (1998) (8 meetings: 6 plenary and 2 committee sessions)

2-1-102 Plenary and committees (1999) (8 meetings: 6 plenary and 2 committee sessions)

(b) Committee on Regional Economic Cooperation:

2-1-103 Plenary (1999) (2 meetings)

(c) Committee on Environment and Natural Resources Development:

2-1-105 Plenary (1998) (2 meetings)

(d) Committee on Socio-economic Measures to Alleviate Poverty in Rural and Urban Areas:

2-1-106 Plenary (1998) (2 meetings)

2. Parliamentary documentation:

(a) Commission:

2-1-201 Report on the current economic situation and policy issues (1998,1999)

(b) Committee on Regional Economic Cooperation:

2-1-202 Report on macroeconomic developments, issues and policies (1999)

(c) Committee on Environment and Natural Resources Development:

2-1-203 Report on integrating environmental considerations into economic decision-making (1998)

(d) Committee on Socio-economic Measures to Alleviate Poverty in Rural and Urban Areas:

2-1-204 Report on economic growth, income distribution and poverty (1998)

3. Ad hoc expert groups and related preparatory work:

2-1-301 Ad hoc expert group on development issues and policies (1998, 1999)

II. Other substantive activities (RB/XB)

1. Mandated recurrent publications:

2-2-101 Economic and Social Survey of Asia and the Pacific (1998, 1999) (RB)

2-2-102 Asia-Pacific Development Journal (biannual) (RB)

2-2-103 Development Papers (1998, 1999) (RB)

3. Mandated non-recurrent publications:

2-2-301 Integrating environmental considerations into economic decision-making (1998) (RB/XB)

4. Discretionary non-recurrent publications:

2-2-401 Economic governance (1999) (RB/XB)

2-2-402 Macroeconomic dimensions of enhancing collaboration and cooperation among the developing economies of the region, with special reference to the economies in transition (1999) (RB/XB)

2-2-403 Economic growth, income distribution and poverty (1998) (RB/XB)

III. International cooperation and inter-agency coordination and liaison (RB/XB)

2-3-001 Collaboration with UNCTAD, the United Nations Department for Economic and Social Information and Policy Analysis and the Department for Policy Coordination and Sustainable Development, the World Bank and ADB on development issues and policies (3 in 1998, 3 in 1999) (RB/XB)

2-3-002 Collaboration and liaison with inter-agency committees, and intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations in the region that are working on economic development issues, strategies and policies (1998, 1999) (RB/XB)

2-3-003 Collaboration and liaison with inter-agency committees, and intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations in the region that are working on integrating environmental considerations into economic decision-making (1998, 1999) (RB/XB)

IV. Technical cooperation (RB/XB)

1. Advisory services at the request of the governments:

2-4-101 Advisory services on modelling and simulation of macroeconomic models, macroeconomic reforms and policy management in economies in transition (1999) (RB/XB)

2-4-102 Advisory services on integrating environmental considerations into economic decision-making (1998) (RB/XB)

2. Group training (seminars, workshops, symposia):

2-4-201 Seminar on economic governance (1999) (RB/XB)

2-4-202 Workshop on macroeconomic dimensions of enhancing economic collaboration and cooperation among the economies in transition (1998) (RB/XB)

2-4-203 Seminar on integrating environmental considerations into economic decision-making (1999) (RB/XB)

2-4-204 Seminar on economic growth, income distribution and poverty (1998) (RB/XB)

Subprogramme 3. Regional economic cooperation: industry and technology

Overview and summary of activities

This subprogramme comprises activities related to industry and technology. Such activities had been carried out in 1996-1997 under subprogramme 1, Regional economic cooperation. The legislative authority for the activities under this subprogramme derives from subprogramme 15.3, Regional economic cooperation: industry and technology, of the medium-term plan for the period 1998-2001.

The focus of work under this subprogramme will be to assist countries in the region in policy formulation for accelerated industrial and technological development. Assistance will be rendered to strengthen national capabilities in such areas as capital flows, especially for small and medium-sized enterprises, involvement of women in manufacturing, the building up of industrial and technological infrastructure, and access to new and emerging technologies. Furthermore, the enhanced participation of the private sector will be encouraged in the development of human resources, with a focus on the creation and upgrading of industrial and technological skills; domestic and foreign direct investment; and policy formulation and review. Assistance will be provided for strengthening the capacity of national institutions in actions related to technology choice, transfer, adaptation and utilization through favourable policy frameworks and institutional mechanisms. The utilization and development of environmentally sound technologies in industries will be promoted. The proposed activities are also aimed at assisting the least developed, landlocked and island developing countries, as well as the disadvantaged economies in transition, in strengthening their national capability to design appropriate policy measures and technical assistance programmes for industrial and technological development, in order to bring these countries into the mainstream of regional economic development.

The work will be carried out by the Industry and Technology Division under the guidance of the Committee on Regional Economic Cooperation.

Activities:

I. Servicing of intergovernmental and expert bodies (RB)

1. Substantive servicing of meetings:

(a) Commission:

3-1-101 Plenary and committees (1998) (8 meetings: 6 plenary and 2 committee sessions)

3-1-102 Plenary and committees (1999) (8 meetings: 6 plenary and 2 committee sessions)

(b) Committee on Regional Economic Cooperation:

3-1-103 Plenary (1999) (6 meetings)

(c) Steering Group of the Committee on Regional Economic Cooperation:

3-1-104 Plenary (1998) (6 meetings)

3-1-105 Plenary (1999) (6 meetings)

2. Parliamentary documentation:

(a) Commission:

3-1-201 Report on issues related to industry and technology (1998, 1999)

(b) Committee on Regional Economic Cooperation:

3-1-202 Report on issues related to industry and technology (1999)

(c) Steering Group of the Committee on Regional Economic Cooperation:

3-1-203 Report on issues related to industry and technology (1998,1999)

3. Ad hoc expert groups and related preparatory work:

3-1-301 Ad hoc expert group on industrial complementarities and tripartite cooperation (1998)

3-1-302 Ad hoc expert group on the development and utilization of science and technology indicators in developing countries of the ESCAP region (1999)

II. Other substantive activities (RB/XB)

1. Mandated recurrent publications:

3-2-101 Industrial and Technological Development News for Asia and the Pacific (1998, 1999) (RB)

3-2-102 Small Industry Bulletin for Asia and the Pacific (1998, 1999) (RB)

3. Mandated non-recurrent publications:

3-2-301 New technologies on increased competitiveness of manufacturing industries for small and medium-sized enterprises (1998) (RB/XB)

3-2-302 Study on the utilization and development of selected environmentally sound technologies by small and medium-sized enterprises (1998) (RB)

3-2-303 Promoting regional cooperation in utilizing industrial complementarities through tripartite cooperation (1998) (RB/XB)

3-2-304 Issues and perspectives on opportunities and challenges in industrial development and restructuring (1998, 1999) (RB/XB)

3-2-305 Cooperative measures for private sector development, privatization and the enhancement of entrepreneurial capability-building (1998, 1999) (RB/XB)

3-2-306 Study on the implementation of ISO 14000 standards (1999) (RB)

4. Discretionary non-recurrent publications:

3-2-401 Small and medium-sized industries as vehicles for sustaining international competitiveness (1998) (RB)

3-2-402 New approaches in promoting the sustained participation of women in industrial development (1998) (RB)

3-2-403 Promoting interregional and intraregional industrial investment flows (1998, 1999) (RB/XB)

3-2-404 Impact of regional and global agreements on technological development and technology transfer (1999) (RB/XB)

3-2-405 Study on emerging issues in technological capability with a focus on the globalization of the world economy (1999) (RB/XB)

3-2-406 Study on strengthening the role of small and medium-sized enterprises in alleviating rural poverty (1999) (RB/XB)

3-2-407 Skills development requirements for industrial and technological competitiveness (1999) (RB)

III. International cooperation and inter-agency coordination and liaison (RB/XB)

3-3-001 Collaboration with United Nations bodies and specialized agencies, including the United Nations Commission on Science and Technology for Development (1998) (RB)

3-3-002 Organization and servicing of the RICAP Subcommittee on Industry and Technology (2 in 1998, 2 in 1999) (RB)

3-3-003 Technical and substantive support to the Asian and Pacific Centre for Transfer of Technology (1998, 1999) (RB/XB)

IV. Technical cooperation (RB/XB)

1. Advisory services at the request of the governments:

3-4-101 Advisory services on policy formulation for the promotion of technology transfer and technology capability-building (2 in 1998) (RB)

3-4-102 Advisory services on enhancement of industrial and technological skills (1998, 1999) (RB/XB)

3-4-103 Advisory services on the transfer of environmentally sound technologies (1998, 1999) (RB/XB)

3-4-104 Advisory services on utilizing emerging industrial complementarities (1998, 1999) (RB/XB)

3-4-105 Advisory services on promotion of intraregional and interregional private capital and investment flows for industrial development (1998, 1999) (RB/XB)

3-4-106 Advisory services on the development of competitive small and medium-sized enterprises (2 in 1999) (RB)

2. Group training (seminars, workshops, symposia):

3-4-201 Regional/subregional workshop on new technologies for the increased competitiveness of manufacturing industries for small and medium-sized enterprises (1998) (RB/XB)

3-4-202 Regional/subregional workshop on the transfer of environmentally sound technologies (1998, 1999) (RB/XB)

3-4-203 Workshop on regional cooperation for the sustained participation of women in manufacturing industries (1998) (RB/XB)

3-4-204 National workshop on promoting foreign direct industrial investment (1998) (RB/XB)

3-4-205 New approaches in promoting industrial complementarities and devising tripartite cooperation schemes (1998) (RB/XB)

3-4-206 Meeting of the network of boards of investment and chambers of commerce and industry for promoting industrial development and relocation (1998) (RB/XB)

3-4-207 Workshop on regional cooperation in private sector development and privatization in industry (1998) (RB/XB)

3-4-208 Training workshop on preparation, appraisal and evaluation of industrial investment projects for the economies in transition (1998) (RB/XB)

3-4-209 Regional cooperation for the adoption of ISO 14000 standards (1999) (RB/XB)

3-4-210 Workshop on implications of regional and global agreements on technological development and technology transfer (1999) (RB/XB)

3-4-211 Workshop on strengthening national capability in areas of technology transfer and management, consultancy services and standards, metrology and quality control (1999) (RB/XB)

3-4-212 Meeting on cooperation in the utilization of technology for the development of selected industries, particularly agro- and allied industries (1999) (RB/XB)

3-4-213 Regional/subregional workshop on strengthening the role of small and medium-sized enterprises to alleviate rural poverty in a liberalized economic environment (1999) (RB/XB)

3-4-214 Training workshop on the preparation, evaluation and appraisal of industrial projects in the least developed and landlocked countries (1999) (RB/XB)

3-4-215 Meeting of the Regional Forum for Promoting Policy Dialogue in Industrial Development and Restructuring (1999) (RB/XB)

Subprogramme 4. Environment and sustainable development

Overview and summary of activities

This subprogramme comprises activities similar to those carried out in 1996-1997 under subprogramme 2, Environment and sustainable development. The legislative authority for the activities under this subprogramme derives from subprogramme 15.4, Environment and sustainable development, of the medium-term plan for the period 1998-2001. The main objectives of the subprogramme are to strengthen national capabilities in achieving environmentally sound and sustainable development, focusing on the integration of environment and development policy, sustainable development and management of natural resources.

The implementation, review and monitoring of the Regional Action Programme for Environmentally Sound and Sustainable Development, 1996-2000 and the recommendations contained in Agenda 21, together with the outcome of the 1997 special session of the United Nations General Assembly on the implementation of the outcome of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, will form the main activities under the programme of work on the environment. Review of implementation of relevant international conventions at the regional level, strengthening regional and subregional cooperation, and identification of emerging environmental issues will be major areas of activity. Emphasis will be placed on addressing current and emerging issues related to the environment, energy resource options, including rural energy supply, power system planning and management, and energy efficiency and conservation. Activities will include analytical and issue-oriented research studies, advisory services and group training. Activities in the mineral resources sector will focus on strengthening the formulation of policies and strategies in the sustainable development of land and mineral resources, including promotion of investment, application of geological aspects in land-use and urban planning, integrated marine policies, and assessment and development of non-living marine resources. Activities in the area of water resources will focus on integrated water resources development and management, protection of water resources, and water quality and water-related natural disaster reduction in line with the programme of action for sustainable development elaborated in Agenda 21. Activities in the area of space applications will aim at achieving an effective action-oriented regional approach for the implementation of the Beijing Declaration on Space Technology Applications for Environmentally Sound and Sustainable Development in Asia and the Pacific, the Strategy for Regional Cooperation in Space Applications for Sustainable Development, the Action Plan on Space Applications for Sustainable Development in Asia and the Pacific, and the Regional Space Applications Programme for Environmentally Sound and Sustainable Development. The emphasis will be on technology applications to meet the challenges of natural resources and environmental management, natural disaster monitoring and sustainable development planning towards the twenty-first century.

The second Ministerial Conference on Space Applications for Sustainable Development in Asia and the Pacific will be held in 1999 and preparations for the Ministerial Conference on Environment and Development to be held in 2000 and *State of the Environment in Asia and the Pacific*, to be issued in 2000, will be undertaken during the biennium.

Documentation and substantive servicing will be provided for the Commission, the Committee on Environment and Natural Resources Development and the Ministerial Conference on Space Applications for Sustainable Development in Asia and the Pacific. Publications will be prepared and advisory services and training activities will be organized on capacity-building.

The work will be carried out by the Environment and Natural Resources Management Division under the guidance of the Committee on Environment and Natural Resources Development.

Activities:

1. Servicing of intergovernmental and expert bodies (RB)

1. Substantive servicing of meetings:

(a) Commission:

4-1-101 Plenary and committees (1998) (8 meetings: 6 plenary and 2 committee sessions)

4-1-102 Plenary and committees (1999) (8 meetings: 6 plenary and 2 committee sessions)

(b) Committee on Environment and Natural Resources Development:

4-1-103 Plenary (1998) (6 meetings)

4-1-104 Plenary (1999) (6 meetings)

(c) Ministerial Conference on Space Applications for Sustainable Development in Asia and the Pacific:

4-1-105 Plenary (1999) (12 meetings)

(d) Intergovernmental Consultative Committee on the Regional Space Applications Programme for Sustainable Development:

4-1-106 Plenary (1998) (4 meetings)

4-1-107 Plenary (1999) (4 meetings)

2. *Parliamentary documentation:*

(a) Commission:

4-1-201 Report on implementation of the recommendations of the 1995 Ministerial Conference on Environment and Development and on the outcome of the 1997 special session of the General Assembly (1998)

4-1-202 Report on preparations for the Ministerial Conference on Space Applications for Sustainable Development in Asia and the Pacific (1999)

4-1-203 Report of the Committee on Environment and Natural Resources Development (1998, 1999)

4-1-204 Report on issues related to the environment and sustainable development of natural resources (1998, 1999)

(b) Committee on Environment and Natural Resources Development:

4-1-205 Report on preparations for the Ministerial Conference on Space Applications for Sustainable Development in Asia and the Pacific (1998)

4-1-206 Report on preparations for the fourth Ministerial Conference on Environment and Development (1999)

4-1-207 Reports on issues related to the environment and sustainable development of natural resources (3 in 1998, 3 in 1999)

(c) Ministerial Conference on Space Applications for Sustainable Development in Asia and the Pacific:

4-1-208 Reports on emerging issues, policy framework and a new regional action plan on space technology applications for sustainable development (4 in 1999)

3. *Ad hoc expert groups and related preparatory work:*

4-1-301 Ad hoc expert group on commercialization of renewable energy technologies and their technology transfer (1999)

4-1-302 Ad hoc expert group on policies and strategies in the sustainable development of land and mineral resources (1999)

4-1-303 Ad hoc expert group on integration of water resources management into economic and social development plans (1998)

4-1-304 Ad hoc high-level expert group in preparation for the Ministerial Conference on Space Applications for Sustainable Development in Asia and the Pacific (1998)

II. Other substantive activities (RB/XB)

1. Mandated recurrent publications:

4-2-101 ESCAP/UNEP Asia-Pacific Environment Newsletter (4 in 1998, 4 in 1999) (RB/XB)

4-2-102 ESCAP Energy News (2 in 1998, 2 in 1999) (RB)

4-2-103 Energy Resources Development Series (1999) (RB)

4-2-104 Electric Power in Asia and the Pacific, 1995-1996 (1998) (RB)

4-2-105 Atlas of Mineral Resources of the ESCAP Region (1998, 1999) (RB)

4-2-106 Mineral Concentrations and Hydrocarbon Accumulations in the ESCAP Region (1999) (RB)

4-2-107 Mineral Resource Assessment, Development and Management Series (1998, 1999) (RB)

4-2-108 Atlas of Urban Geology Series (1998, 1999) (RB/XB)

4-2-109 Water Resources Journal (4 in 1998, 4 in 1999) (RB)

4-2-110 Confluence (2 in 1998, 2 in 1999) (RB)

4-2-111 Water Resources Series (1998, 1999) (RB)

4-2-112 Space Technology Applications Newsletter (4 in 1998, 4 in 1999) (RB)

4-2-113 Asian-Pacific Remote Sensing and GIS Journal (2 in 1998, 2 in 1999) (RB)

3. Mandated non-recurrent publications:

4-2-301 Implementation of the Regional Action Programme on Environmentally Sound and Sustainable Development, 1996-2000, and the outcome of the 1997 special session of the General Assembly (1998) (RB/XB)

4-2-302 Trade and environment (1998) (RB/XB)

4-2-303 Regional review of the status of implementation of relevant international environmental conventions (1999) (RB/XB)

4-2-304 Study on environmental pollution and national and international standards (1999) (RB/XB)

4-2-305 Compendium of energy conservation legislation in the Asian and Pacific region (1998) (RB/XB)

4-2-306 Guidelines for promotion of energy efficiency for economies in transition (1999) (RB/XB)

4-2-307 Development and management of non-living resources in the coastal zones of the Asian and Pacific region (1998, 1999) (RB/XB)

4-2-308 Assessment of water resources and water demand by user sectors (1999) (RB)

4-2-309 Space technology and applications for sustainable development in Asia and the Pacific: a compendium (second edition) (1999) (RB/XB)

4-2-310 Environment and natural resources management using remote sensing and geographic information systems (1998, 1999) (RB/XB)

4-2-311 Space technology applications for sustainable development (1998, 1999) (RB/XB)

4-2-312 Advanced earth observation satellite technology applications for environment monitoring and natural resources management (1999) (RB/XB)

4. Discretionary non-recurrent publications:

4-2-401 Study on harmonization of various initiatives for promoting regional cooperation on space applications for sustainable development (1998) (RB/XB)

4-2-402 Spatial information infrastructure and information networking applications, including distance education (1998) (RB/XB)

5. Electronic, audio and video issuances, including films, videotapes, radio broadcasts, tapes of news, documentary and feature programmes:

4-2-501 ESCAP Homepage on Energy Resources on the World Wide Web (1998, 1999) (RB)

6. Exhibits:

4-2-601 Exhibit for World Water Day (1998, 1999) (RB)

4-2-602 Exhibit for the International Decade for Natural Disaster Reduction Day (1998, 1999) (RB)

4-2-603 Exhibit on Space 2000 (1999) (RB/XB)

7. Booklets, pamphlets, fact sheets, wall charts, information kits:

4-2-701 Pamphlet for World Water Day (1998, 1999) (RB/XB)

4-2-702 Pamphlet for the International Decade for Natural Disaster Reduction Day (1998, 1999) (RB/XB)

8. Technical material for outside users (databases, software etc.):

4-2-801 Maintenance and update of the ESCAP Regional Information Service on Space Applications (1998, 1999) (RB/XB)

III. International cooperation and inter-agency coordination and liaison (RB/XB)

4-3-001 Collaboration with intergovernmental organizations, including ADB, ASEAN, ECO and SAARC; NGOs; and the private sector in implementing the Regional Action Programme on Environmentally Sound and Sustainable Development, 1996-2000, and Agenda 21 and the outcome of the 1997 special session of the General Assembly (2 in 1998, 2 in 1999) (RB/XB)

4-3-002 Collaboration with intergovernmental organizations, including ADB, APDC, ASEAN, SAARC, the Mekong River Commission, CCOP, ECO, SOPAC, IOMAC, the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission's Subcommission for Western Pacific; NGOs, including CITYNET; and the private sector on matters related to sustainable development of natural resources and energy (4 in 1998, 4 in 1999) (RB/XB)

4-3-003 Collaboration with intergovernmental organizations, including ADB, the Mekong River Commission, the Committee on Earth Observation Satellites; NGOs; and the private sector on matters related to space technology applications (1998, 1999) (RB)

4-3-004 Collaboration with subregional environment programmes and national research and training centres on international conventions related to desertification control, climate change, and biodiversity (3 in 1998, 3 in 1999) (RB/XB)

4-3-005 Collaboration with United Nations bodies and specialized agencies, including the Commission on Sustainable Development and the Inter-agency Subcommittee on Environment and Sustainable Development in Asia and the Pacific, in implementing Agenda 21 and the outcome of the 1997 special session of the General Assembly, and on follow-up to international conventions related to the environment (1998, 1999) (RB)

4-3-006 Collaboration with United Nations bodies and specialized agencies, including the Committee on Natural Resources, the Committee on New and Renewable Sources of Energy and Energy for Development, ACC Subcommittee on Water Resources and Secretariat for the International Decade for Natural Disaster Reduction, on matters related to sustainable development of natural resources and energy (2 in 1998, 1 in 1999) (RB/XB)

4-3-007 Collaboration with United Nations bodies and specialized agencies, including the Office for Outer Space Affairs, UNDP and the Inter-agency Meeting on Outer Space Activities, on matters related to space technology applications (1998, 1999) (RB/XB)

4-3-008 Technical and substantive support for the Typhoon Committee (1998, 1999) (RB)

4-3-009 Technical and substantive support for the Panel on Tropical Cyclones (1998, 1999) (RB)

4-3-010 Organization and servicing of the RICAP Subcommittee on Environment and Sustainable Development (1998, 1999) (RB)

4-3-011 Organization and servicing of the RICAP Subcommittee on Water for Asia and the Pacific (1998, 1999) (RB)

4-3-012 Organization and servicing of the RICAP Subcommittee on Space Applications for Sustainable Development (1998, 1999) (RB)

IV. Technical cooperation (RB/XB)

1. Advisory services at the request of the governments:

4-4-101 Advisory services on implementation of the Regional Action Programme on Environmentally Sound and Sustainable Development, 1996-2000 (2 in 1998, 2 in 1999) (RB)

4-4-102 Advisory services on strengthening capacity for environmental management (2 in 1998, 1 in 1999) (RB/XB)

4-4-103 Advisory services on energy resource options, energy environment planning, power system and energy efficiency (4 in 1998, 2 in 1999) (RB/XB)

4-4-104 Advisory services on mineral resources assessment, mineral resources economics and legislation (2 in 1998, 1 in 1999) (RB/XB)

4-4-105 Advisory services on environmental geology for planning and management of land resources (1 in 1998, 2 in 1999) (RB/XB)

4-4-106 Advisory services on water resources development and management and on water-related natural disaster reduction (2 in 1998, 3 in 1999) (RB/XB)

4-4-107 Advisory services on space technology development and applications for environment and sustainable development (1998) (RB/XB)

4-4-108 Advisory services on strengthening national capabilities for integrated applications of spatial information technology for environment and natural resources management (1998, 1999) (RB/XB)

2. Group training (seminars, workshops, symposia):

4-4-201 Meetings on review and assessment of the Regional Action Programme on Environmentally Sound and Sustainable Development, 1996-2000 and preparations for the Ministerial Conference on Environment and Development (2 in 1999) (RB/XB)

4-4-202 Workshop on regional cooperation for implementation of and awareness-raising on relevant environmental conventions, including the Global Conference on the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States (1998) (RB/XB)

4-4-203 Subregional and national seminars on capacity-building for environmental management (2 in 1998, 2 in 1999) (RB/XB)

4-4-204 Workshops on energy-environment planning, new and renewable sources of energy, power system and energy efficiency promotion (4 in 1998, 2 in 1999) (RB/XB)

4-4-205 TCDC arrangements in the area of new and renewable sources of energy technology and energy efficiency promotion (1998, 1999) (RB/XB)

4-4-206 Workshop on mineral resources assessment, economics and legislation (1998, 1999) (RB/XB)

4-4-207 Workshop on environmental management of mineral resources development (1998, 1999) (RB/XB)

4-4-208 Workshop on environmental geology and geology for land-use planning (1998, 1999) (RB/XB)

4-4-209 Workshop on development and management of non-living resources in the coastal zone of the Asian and Pacific region (1999) (RB/XB)

4-4-210 Workshops on water resources development and management, protection of water resources and water quality, water and sustainable development and flood loss reduction (4 in 1998, 4 in 1999) (RB/XB)

4-4-211 TCDC arrangements on water resources development management (2 in 1998, 2 in 1999) (RB/XB)

4-4-212 Training workshop on remote sensing and geographic information systems applications for land and sea resources management, including tropical ecosystem monitoring (1998, 1999) (RB/XB)

4-4-213 Meetings of regional working groups on various space applications sectors (4 in 1998, 4 in 1999) (RB/XB)

4-4-214 Seminar/symposium on space applications in implementation of the Beijing Declaration on Space Technology Applications for Environmentally Sound and Sustainable Development in Asia and the Pacific, Regional Strategy and Action Plan, and Regional Space Applications Programme for Environmentally Sound and Sustainable Development (1998, 1999) (RB/XB)

3. Fellowships:

4-4-301 Long-term fellowships on space technology applications (12-month duration) (4 in 1998, 4 in 1999) (RB/XB)

4-4-302 Medium-term fellowships on spatial informatics and applications, including remote sensing, geographic information systems and global positioning system) (3-month duration) (25 in 1999) (RB/XB)

4. Field (country, regional, interregional) projects:

4-4-401 Pilot research/study projects on applications of advanced earth observation satellite data for environment and natural resources management (20 in 1998-1999) (RB/XB)

Subprogramme 5. Poverty alleviation: social development

Overview and summary of activities

This subprogramme comprises activities related to social development similar to those that had been carried out in 1996-1997 under subprogramme 3, Poverty alleviation through economic growth and social development. The legislative authority for the activities under this subprogramme derives from subprogramme 15.5, Poverty alleviation: social development, of the medium-term plan for the period 1998-2001.

The focus of work under this subprogramme will be to assess and respond to regional trends and challenges in social policy and human resources development, with particular attention to the planning and delivery of social service and training programmes for the poor and other marginalized social groups, including youth, women, disabled persons and older persons. Activities will emphasize strengthening the capacity of the public and non-governmental sectors to develop and implement policies and programmes to enhance the productive and self-help capability of the above-mentioned groups as means of enhancing their quality of life. In undertaking this work, attention will be devoted to fostering partnerships between governments, the private sector, non-governmental organizations, and community and other participatory organizations. Priority will be given to activities in regional implementation of global mandates, including the Programme of Action of the World Summit for Social Development and the World Programme of Action for Youth to the Year 2000 and Beyond. Activities will also be in pursuance of the following major regional mandates: Agenda for Action on Social Development in the ESCAP Region; Jakarta Plan of Action on Human Resources Development in the ESCAP Region; and Agenda for Action for the Asian and Pacific Decade of Disabled Persons, 1993-2002.

The work will be carried out by the Social Development Division under the guidance of the Committee on Socio-economic Measures to Alleviate Poverty in Rural and Urban Areas.

Activities:

I. Servicing of intergovernmental and expert bodies (RB)

1. Substantive servicing of meetings:

(a) Commission:

5-1-101 Plenary and committees (1998) (8 meetings: 6 plenary and 2 committee sessions)

5-1-102 Plenary and committees (1999) (8 meetings: 6 plenary and 2 committee sessions)

(b) Committee on Socio-economic Measures to Alleviate Poverty in Rural and Urban Areas:

5-1-103 Plenary (1998) (6 meetings)

5-1-104 Plenary (1999) (6 meetings)

(c) Asia-Pacific Meeting on HRD for Youth to Review the Implementation of the World Programme of Action for Youth to the Year 2000 and Beyond:

5-1-105 Plenary and working groups (1998) (16 meetings: 8 plenary and 8 working group sessions)

(d) Senior Officials' Meeting on the Agenda for Action on Social Development in the ESCAP Region:

5-1-106 Plenary (1999) (8 meetings)

2. Parliamentary documentation:

(a) Commission:

5-1-201 Report of the Fifth Asian and Pacific Ministerial Conference on Social Development (1998)

5-1-202 Report on implementation of resolution 52/4 on promoting human resources development among youth in Asia and the Pacific (1998)

5-1-203 Report on implementation of resolution 51/2 on strengthening regional cooperation in human resources development in Asia and the Pacific (1999)

5-1-204 Report on issues related to social development (1998, 1999)

5-1-205 Report on status of and prospects for social development: theme topic of the fifty-fourth session of the Commission (1998) (RB)

(b) Committee on Socio-economic Measures to Alleviate Poverty in Rural and Urban Areas:

5-1-206 Report on issues related to social development (1998, 1999)

(c) Asia-Pacific Meeting on HRD for Youth to Review the Implementation of the World Programme of Action for Youth to the Year 2000 and Beyond:

5-1-207 Report on the regional implementation of the World Programme of Action for Youth to the Year 2000 and Beyond (1998)

(d) Senior Officials' Meeting on the Agenda for Action on Social Development in the ESCAP Region:

5-1-208 Reports on issues related to the Agenda for Action on Social Development in the ESCAP Region (3 in 1999)

3. Ad hoc expert groups and related preparatory work:

5-1-301 Ad hoc expert group on the Agenda for Action on Social Development in the ESCAP Region (1999)

II. Other substantive activities (RB/XB)

1. Mandated recurrent publications:

5-2-101 ESCAP Human Resources Development Newsletter (2 in 1998, 2 in 1999) (RB)

5-2-102 Social Development Newsletter (2 in 1998, 2 in 1999) (RB)

3. Mandated non-recurrent publications:

5-2-301 Regional networking among centres of excellence for HRD (1999) (RB)

5-2-302 Youth participation indicators in Asia and the Pacific (1999) (RB)

5-2-303 HRD training curriculum for social service personnel (1999) (RB/XB)

5-2-304 HRD training manual for development of post-literacy programmes for women (1999) (RB/XB)

5-2-305 HRD training curriculum for planning and management of literacy programmes for women (1999) (RB/XB)

5-2-306 HRD training curriculum for youth participation in development (1999) (RB/XB)

5-2-307 Trainers' guidelines for self-help organizations of people with disabilities (1998) (RB/XB)

5-2-308 Illustrated report on promotion of non-handicapping environments (1998) (RB/XB)

5-2-309 Guidelines for the implementation of a regional plan of action concerning older persons (1999) (RB/XB)

5-2-310 Review of the status of sexually abused and exploited children and youth and their access to social, health and other HRD services (1999) (RB/XB)

5-2-311 Asia and the Pacific into the twenty-first century: status of and prospects for social development (1998) (RB)

4. Discretionary non-recurrent publications:

5-2-401 Social aspects of international labour migration in the ESCAP region (1998) (RB/XB)

5-2-402 Community-based prevention of juvenile delinquency (1998) (RB/XB)

5-2-403 Case studies on national policies and programmes for older persons (1999) (RB/XB)

5-2-404 The role of the family in providing social protection (1998) (RB/XB)

5-2-405 Private sector collaboration in implementing the Agenda for Action on Social Development in the ESCAP Region (1999) (RB/XB)

5-2-406 Approaches to the targeting of poverty alleviation programmes (1999) (RB/XB)

5-2-407 Conceptual framework for a regional social development data bank (1999) (RB/XB)

5. Electronic, audio and video issuances, including films, videotapes, radio broadcasts, tapes of news, documentary and feature programmes:

5-2-501 ESCAP Homepage on the Decade of Disabled Persons on the World Wide Web (1998, 1999) (RB)

5-2-502 ESCAP Social Policy Homepage on the World Wide Web (1998, 1999) (RB)

5-2-503 ESCAP HRD Homepage on the World Wide Web (1998, 1999) (RB)

5-2-504 Videotapes on programmes in support of the Agenda for Action on Social Development in the ESCAP Region (2 in 1998) (RB/XB)

5-2-505 Videotapes on the ESCAP HRD Award-winners (1998, 1999) (RB/XB)

5-2-506 Videotape on barrier-free environments for people with disabilities (1998) (RB/XB)

5-2-507 Videotape on the Asian and Pacific Decade of Disabled Persons, 1993-2002 (1999) (RB/XB)

6. Exhibits:

5-2-601 Exhibits on the ESCAP HRD Award-winners (1998, 1999) (RB/XB)

5-2-602 Exhibit on implementation of the Agenda for Action on Social Development in the ESCAP Region (1999) (RB/XB)

7. Booklets, pamphlets, fact sheets, wall charts, information kits:

5-2-701 Brochures on the ESCAP HRD Award (1998, 1999) (RB/XB)

5-2-702 Information kits and booklets on the ESCAP HRD Award-winners (2 in 1998, 2 in 1999) (RB)

5-2-703 Fact sheets on national HRD situations in Asia and the Pacific (25 in 1998) (RB)

5-2-704 Information materials in connection with the Senior Officials' Meeting on the Agenda for Action on Social Development in the ESCAP Region (1999) (RB/XB)

5-2-705 Information materials to mark the International Year of Older Persons (1999) (RB/XB)

8. Technical material for outside users (databases, software etc.):

5-2-801 ESCAP database on centres of excellence for HRD (1998, 1999) (RB)

5-2-802 ESCAP database on the International Year of Older Persons (1999) (RB)

9. Special events:

5-2-901 Presentation ceremony for the ESCAP HRD Award (1998, 1999) (RB/XB)

III. International cooperation and inter-agency coordination and liaison (RB/XB)

5-3-001 Collaboration with intergovernmental organizations, including ADB, ASEAN, ECO, SAARC and SPC, and NGOs on follow-up of the Agenda for Action on Social Development in the ESCAP Region and the Programme of Action of the World Summit for Social Development (3 in 1998, 3 in 1999) (RB/XB)

5-3-002 Collaboration with intergovernmental organizations, including ASEAN, ECO, SAARC and SPC, and NGOs in implementing the Jakarta Plan of Action on Human Resources Development in the ESCAP Region (1998, 1999) (RB/XB)

5-3-003 Collaboration with intergovernmental organizations and NGOs, including the Commonwealth Youth Programme, the Asian Youth Council and the Pacific Youth Council, in implementing the World Programme of Action for Youth to the Year 2000 and Beyond (1998, 1999) (RB/XB)

5-3-004 Collaboration with national centres of excellence for HRD in developing training materials for social service personnel (2 in 1998, 2 in 1999) (RB/XB)

5-3-005 Collaboration with intergovernmental organizations and NGOs on matters related to the Decade of Disabled Persons (2 in 1998, 2 in 1999) (RB/XB)

5-3-006 Collaboration with United Nations bodies and specialized agencies, including the Department for Policy Coordination and Sustainable Development, UNICEF, UNDP, UNDCP, ILO and WHO, on follow-up of the Agenda for Action of Social Development in the ESCAP Region and the Programme of Action of the World Summit for Social Development (2 in 1998, 2 in 1999) (RB/XB)

5-3-007 Collaboration with United Nations bodies and specialized agencies, including ILO, UNESCO and WHO, in implementing the Jakarta Plan of Action on Human Resources Development in the ESCAP Region (1998, 1999) (RB/XB)

5-3-008 Collaboration with United Nations bodies and specialized agencies, including the United Nations Youth Unit/Department for Policy Coordination and Sustainable Development, UNICEF, UNFPA, ILO, UNESCO and WHO, in regional follow-up of the World Programme of Action for Youth to the Year 2000 and Beyond (1998, 1999) (RB/XB)

5-3-009 Collaboration with UNESCO in promoting literacy training for women (1998, 1999) (RB/XB)

5-3-010 Collaboration with United Nations bodies and specialized agencies, including the Department for Policy Coordination and Sustainable Development, UNICEF, ILO and WHO, on matters related to the Decade of Disabled Persons (2 in 1998, 2 in 1999) (RB/XB)

5-3-011 Collaboration with United Nations bodies and specialized agencies, including the Department for Policy Coordination and Sustainable Development, ILO and WHO, on matters related to the International Year of Older Persons (1998, 1999) (RB/XB)

5-3-012 Organization and servicing of the RICAP Subcommittee on Disability (2 in 1998, 2 in 1999) (RB)

5-3-013 Organization and servicing of the RICAP Subcommittee on HIV/AIDS (1998, 1999) (RB)

IV. Technical cooperation (RB/XB)

1. Advisory services at the request of the governments:

5-4-101 Advisory services on implementation of the Agenda for Action on Social Development in the ESCAP Region and regional follow-up of the Programme of Action of the World Summit for Social Development (3 in 1998, 3 in 1999) (RB/XB)

5-4-102 Advisory services on implementation of the Jakarta Plan of Action on Human Resources Development in the ESCAP Region (2 in 1998, 2 in 1999) (RB/XB)

5-4-103 Advisory services on enhancement of youth skills and promotion of youth participation in development (2 in 1998, 2 in 1999) (RB)

5-4-104 Advisory services on design and implementation of national youth policy frameworks (2 in 1998, 2 in 1999) (RB)

5-4-105 Advisory services on implementation of the Asian and Pacific Decade of Disabled Persons, 1993-2002 (2 in 1998, 2 in 1999) (RB/XB)

5-4-106 Advisory services on preparations for and observance of the International Year of Older Persons (1998, 1999) (RB/XB)

2. Group training (seminars, workshops, symposia):

5-4-201 Regional workshop on strengthening the role of the family in providing social protection (1998) (RB/XB)

5-4-202 Regional workshop on a conceptual framework for a social development data bank (1999) (RB/XB)

5-4-203 Meetings on major social issues and programmes (1998, 1999) (RB/XB)

5-4-204 Meetings of the Jury for the ESCAP HRD Award (1998, 1999) (RB/XB)

5-4-205 Meetings on critical HRD issues (1998, 1999) (RB/XB)

5-4-206 Subregional ESCAP HRD courses for social service personnel from centres of excellence in South Asia and Indo-China (2 in 1999) (RB/XB)

5-4-207 Subregional evaluation workshop for promoting HRD for women in South Asia through post-literacy programme development (1999) (RB/XB)

5-4-208 Subregional evaluation workshops for promoting HRD for women through literacy training in the Pacific and Indo-China (2 in 1999) (RB/XB)

5-4-209 ESCAP HRD course for social work personnel dealing with sexually abused and sexually exploited youth in the Greater Mekong subregion (1999) (RB/XB)

5-4-210 National ESCAP HRD courses for social service personnel from centres of excellence (4 in 1999) (RB/XB)

5-4-211 National ESCAP HRD courses for youth work personnel in transitional and least developed countries (3 in 1998, 3 in 1999) (RB/XB)

5-4-212 Training workshops on enhancing self-help capabilities of disadvantaged groups (2 in 1998, 2 in 1999) (RB/XB)

5-4-213 Regional seminars on emerging social issues related to disadvantaged groups (2 in 1998, 2 in 1999) (RB/XB)

5-4-214 Regional consultation on a draft regional plan of action concerning older persons in the ESCAP region (1998) (RB/XB)

3. Fellowships:

5-4-301 ESCAP HRD Award (1998, 1999) (XB)

Subprogramme 6. Poverty alleviation: rural and urban development

Overview and summary of activities

This subprogramme comprises activities related to rural and urban development similar to those that had been carried out in 1996-1997 under subprogramme 2, Environment and sustainable development; and subprogramme 3, Poverty alleviation through economic growth and social development. The legislative authority under this subprogramme derives from subprogramme 15.6, Poverty alleviation: rural and urban development, of the medium-term plan for the period 1998-2001.

The focus of the work under this subprogramme will be to assess and strengthen the regional issues and capabilities of grass-roots institutions in rural and urban development; and the promotion of policies and programmes on increased gender equality. Analyses of the national and regional poverty situation will aim to improve conditions of the target groups through farm and off-farm employment creation and access of the poor to land, credit and other productive assets. Activities will emphasize increasing the capacity of governmental and non-governmental organizations to develop innovative ways of rural and urban poverty alleviation, and support food security at the rural household level. It will promote proper use of agro-chemicals to achieve sustainable agricultural development as well as augment food supply. Assistance will be provided to promote policies and programmes to enable women to play an active role as both agents and beneficiaries of development. Activities will also be pursued as follow-up to the Jakarta Declaration and Plan of Action for the Advancement of Women in Asia and the Pacific and the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action; and the Regional Action Plan on Urbanization and the Habitat Agenda.

The work will be carried out by the Rural and Urban Development Division under the guidance of the Committee on Socio-economic Measures to Alleviate Poverty in Rural and Urban Areas.

Activities:

I. Servicing of intergovernmental and expert bodies (RB)

1. Substantive servicing of meetings:

(a) Commission:

6-1-101 Plenary and committees (1998) (8 meetings: 6 plenary and 2 committee sessions)

6-1-102 Plenary and committees (1999) (8 meetings: 6 plenary and 2 committee sessions)

(b) Committee on Socio-economic Measures to Alleviate Poverty in Rural and Urban Areas:

6-1-103 Plenary (1998) (6 meetings)

6-1-104 Plenary (1999) (6 meetings)

(c) Ministerial Conference on Urbanization in Asia and the Pacific:

6-1-105 Plenary (1998) (10 meetings)

2. *Parliamentary documentation:*

(a) Commission:

6-1-201 Reports on issues related to rural and urban development (2 in 1998, 2 in 1999)

6-1-202 Report on implementation of resolution 52/3 on follow-up to the Fourth World Conference on Women (1998, 1999)

(b) Committee on Socio-economic Measures to Alleviate Poverty in Rural and Urban Areas:

6-1-203 Report on issues related to rural and urban development (1998, 1999)

6-1-204 Report on implementation of the Regional Action Plan on Urbanization and the Habitat Agenda (1999)

(c) Ministerial Conference on Urbanization in Asia and the Pacific:

6-1-205 Reports on issues related to urbanization (5 in 1998)

3. *Ad hoc expert groups and related preparatory work:*

6-1-301 Ad hoc expert group on the review of implementation of the Jakarta Declaration and Plan of Action for the Advancement of Women in Asia and the Pacific and the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action (1998) (RB)

II. Other substantive activities (RB/XB)

1. *Mandated recurrent publications:*

6-2-101 Newsletter on Poverty Alleviation Initiatives (4 in 1998, 4 in 1999) (RB)

6-2-102 Agro-Chemicals News in Brief (6 in 1998, 6 in 1999) (RB/XB)

6-2-103 Fertilizer Trade Information Monthly Bulletin (12 in 1998, 12 in 1999) (RB/XB)

6-2-104 WINAP Newsletter (2 in 1998, 2 in 1999) (RB)

2. *Discretionary recurrent publications:*

6-2-201 Update of Statistical Compendium on Women in Asia and the Pacific (1999) (RB/XB)

6-2-202 Compendium of inter-agency work programmes on rural poverty alleviation, 1998-1999 (1998) (RB)

4. *Discretionary non-recurrent publications:*

6-2-401 Capability-building to alleviate rural poverty under economic adjustments (1998) (RB/XB)

6-2-402 Strengthening of credit institutions for rural poverty alleviation (1998) (RB/XB)

6-2-403 Country profiles on plant nutrient sector development (2 in 1998, 1 in 1999) (RB/XB)

6-2-404 Emerging urban issues (1999) (RB)

6-2-405 Revised Regional Action Plan on Urbanization (1999) (RB)

6-2-406 Innovative approaches to urban governance (1998) (RB)

6-2-407 Monograph series on emerging issues on women in development in Asia and the Pacific (2 in 1998, 2 in 1999) (RB/XB)

5. *Electronic, audio and video issuances, including films, videotapes, radio broadcasts, tapes of news, documentary and feature programmes:*

6-2-501 ESCAP Homepage on Human Settlements on the World Wide Web (1998, 1999) (RB/XB)

6-2-502 ESCAP Homepage on Women in Development on the World Wide Web (1998, 1999) (RB)

7. *Booklets, pamphlets, fact sheets, wall charts, information kits:*

6-2-701 Promotional material for the Ministerial Conference on Urbanization in Asia and the Pacific (1998) (RB)

6-2-702 Information kits on the Beijing Platform for Action (4 in 1998) (RB/XB)

8. *Technical material for outside users (databases, software etc.):*

6-2-801 FADI bibliographic database (1998, 1999) (RB/XB)

6-2-802 DRCT database - sources of plant nutrient-related information with special reference to Asia and the Pacific (1998, 1999) (RB/XB)

6-2-803 Numeral database on the food and fertilizer sector (1998, 1999) (RB/XB)

6-2-804 Maintenance and updating of databases on human settlements projects and human settlements experts in the region (2 in 1998, 2 in 1999) (RB/XB)

6-2-805 Maintenance and updating of database of non-governmental organizations on women in the ESCAP region (1998, 1999) (RB/XB)

III. International cooperation and inter-agency coordination and liaison (RB/XB)

6-3-001 Collaboration with intergovernmental organizations, including the Centre on Integrated Rural Development for Asia and the Pacific, and NGOs on matters related to agriculture and rural development (1998, 1999) (RB)

6-3-002 Collaboration with intergovernmental organizations and NGOs, including ACHR, CITYNET, IULA and TRISHNET, in implementing the Regional Action Plan on Urbanization and the Habitat Agenda (1998, 1999) (RB/XB)

6-3-003 Collaboration with intergovernmental organizations, including ASEAN, SAARC and SPC, development banks and NGOs in implementing the Jakarta Declaration and Plan of Action for the Advancement of Women in Asia and the Pacific and the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action (1998, 1999) (RB/XB)

6-3-004 Collaboration with United Nations bodies and specialized agencies, including the ACC Subcommittee on Rural Development, on matters related to rural development (1998, 1999) (RB)

6-3-005 Collaboration with United Nations bodies and specialized agencies, including the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat), in implementing the Regional Action Plan on Urbanization and the Habitat Agenda (1998, 1999) (RB)

6-3-006 Collaboration with United Nations bodies and specialized agencies in the system-wide medium-term plan for the advancement of women (2 in 1998, 2 in 1999) (RB)

6-3-007 Technical and substantive support to the Regional Coordination Centre for Research and Development of Coarse Grains, Pulses, Roots and Tuber Crops in the Humid Tropics of Asia and the Pacific (1998, 1999) (RB/XB)

6-3-008 Organization and servicing of IFA/FADINAP regional conference on plant nutrients for Asia and the Pacific (1998, 1999) (XB)

6-3-009 Organization and servicing of the RICAP Subcommittee on Urbanization (1998, 1999) (RB)

6-3-010 Organization and servicing of the RICAP Subcommittee on the Advancement of Women (1998, 1999) (RB)

IV. Technical cooperation (RB/XB)

1. *Advisory services at the request of the governments:*

6-4-101 Advisory services on policy issues on use of plant nutrient and increasing food production (6 in 1998, 6 in 1999) (RB/XB)

6-4-102 Information management advisory missions on agro-chemicals (3 in 1998, 3 in 1999) (RB/XB)

6-4-103 Advisory services on fertilizer marketing and pricing policy (2 in 1998, 2 in 1999) (RB/XB)

6-4-104 Advisory services on implementation of the Regional Action Plan on Urbanization and the Habitat Agenda (4 in 1998 and 4 in 1999) (RB/XB)

6-4-105 Advisory services on implementation of the Jakarta Declaration and Plan of Action for the Advancement of Women in Asia and the Pacific and the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action (4 in 1998, 3 in 1999) (RB/XB)

2. *Group training (seminars, workshops, symposia):*

6-4-201 Meeting in preparation for the Ministerial Conference on Urbanization in Asia and the Pacific (1998) (RB/XB)

6-4-202 National/regional workshops on target group-oriented policies and programmes for rural poverty alleviation, including programmes on rural women and disadvantaged economies (5 in 1998, 1 in 1999) (RB/XB)

6-4-203 Participatory group activities and employment promotion through market-oriented projects (16 in 1998, 16 in 1999) (RB/XB)

6-4-204 Promotion of ECDC-TCDC activities for rural poverty alleviation (1998, 1999) (RB/XB)

6-4-205 Workshop on integrated pest management in rural poverty alleviation (1998) (RB/XB)

6-4-206 Workshop on economic aspects of non-chemical crop protection (1999) (RB/XB)

6-4-207 Workshops on policy analysis on food security, rural credit and rural institutions (7 in 1999) (RB/XB)

6-4-208 Workshops on environmentally friendly plant nutrition concepts (2 in 1998, 2 in 1999) (RB/XB)

6-4-209 Workshops on fertilizer marketing training (2 in 1998, 1 in 1999) (RB/XB)

6-4-210 Seminar on fertilizer policy issues (1998, 1999) (RB/XB)

6-4-211 Workshops on plant nutrition surveys (2 in 1998) (RB/XB)

6-4-212 Regional Urban Forum (1998) (RB/XB)

6-4-213 Workshop on emerging urban issues (1999) (RB/XB)

6-4-214 Workshop on innovative approaches to urban governance (1998) (RB/XB)

6-4-215 Seminar on poverty alleviation for women (1998, 1999) (RB/XB)

6-4-216 Seminar on women's rights, violence against women and trafficking (1998, 1999) (RB/XB)

6-4-217 Seminar on enhancing women's participation in decision-making and governance (1998) (RB/XB)

6-4-218 Training workshop on enhancement of women's information network through modern information technology (1998, 1999) (RB/XB)

Subprogramme 7. Poverty alleviation: population and development

Overview and summary of activities

This subprogramme comprises activities related to population similar to those that had been carried out in 1996-1997 under subprogramme 3, Poverty alleviation through economic growth and social development. The legislative authority for the activities under this subprogramme derives from subprogramme 15.7, Poverty alleviation: population and development, of the medium-term plan for the period 1998-2001.

The activities under this subprogramme will focus on technical cooperation and research in the areas of ageing, female migration and reproductive health. The activities also include preparation of publications, including the *Asia-Pacific Population Journal* and *ESCAP Population Data Sheet*, advisory services and training in the field of population information. Priority will be given to activities in regional implementation of both global and regional mandates, namely the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development and the recommendations of the Bali Declaration on Population and Sustainable Development.

The work will be carried out by the Population Division under the guidance of the Committee on Socio-economic Measures to Alleviate Poverty in Rural and Urban Areas.

Activities:

I. Servicing of intergovernmental and expert bodies (RB)

1. Substantive servicing of meetings:

(a) Commission:

7-1-101 Plenary and committees (1998) (8 meetings: 6 plenary and 2 committee sessions)

7-1-102 Plenary and committees (1999) (8 meetings: 6 plenary and 2 committee sessions)

(b) Committee on Socio-economic Measures to Alleviate Poverty in Rural and Urban Areas:

7-1-103 Plenary (1998) (6 meetings)

7-1-104 Plenary (1999) (6 meetings)

2. Parliamentary documentation:

(a) Commission:

7-1-201 Report of the Committee on Socio-economic Measures to Alleviate Poverty in Rural and Urban Areas (1998, 1999)

7-1-202 Report on issues related to population and development (1998, 1999)

(b) Committee on Socio-economic Measures to Alleviate Poverty in Rural and Urban Areas:

7-1-203 Report on issues related to population and development (1998, 1999)

3. Ad hoc expert groups and related preparatory work:

7-1-301 Ad hoc expert group on appropriate technology for accessing population information (1998)

7-1-302 Ad hoc expert group on globalization and population change (1999)

II. Other substantive activities (RB/XB)

1. Mandated recurrent publications:

7-2-101 Asia-Pacific Population Journal (quarterly) (RB)

4. Discretionary non-recurrent publications:

7-2-401 Family support and community services for the benefit of older persons (3 in 1998, 3 in 1999) (RB/XB)

7-2-402 Strengthening performance monitoring and evaluation for reproductive health and family planning programmes (1999) (RB/XB)

7-2-403 Female migration, employment, family formation and poverty (1998) (RB/XB)

7-2-404 Globalization and population change (1999) (RB/XB)

5. Electronic, audio and video issuances, including films, videotapes, radio broadcasts, tapes of news, documentary and feature programmes:

7-2-501 ESCAP Population Homepage on the World Wide Web (1998, 1999) (RB)

7. Booklets, pamphlets, fact sheets, wall charts, information kits:

7-2-701 Population data sheet (1998, 1999) (RB)

8. Technical material for outside users (databases, software etc.):

7-2-801 POPIN data bank products and services within the framework of the EBIS/Popfile and ESIS database management system (12 in 1998) (RB/XB)

7-2-802 POPIN telecommunications products and services (4 in 1998, 4 in 1999) (RB/XB)

III. International cooperation and inter-agency coordination and liaison (RB)

7-3-001 Collaboration with United Nations bodies and specialized agencies on matters related to population and development (1998, 1999) (RB)

7-3-002 Collaboration with NGOs on matters related to population and development (1998, 1999) (RB)

7-3-003 Organization and servicing of the RICAP Subcommittee on Population and Development (2 in 1998, 2 in 1999) (RB)

7-3-004 Organization and servicing of the RICAP Subcommittee on Poverty Alleviation (1998, 1999) (RB)

IV. Technical cooperation (RB/XB)

1. Advisory services at the request of the governments:

7-4-101 Advisory services on implementation of the Bali Declaration on Population and Sustainable Development and the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development (2 in 1998, 2 in 1999) (RB)

7-4-102 Advisory services on reproductive health and family planning (2 in 1998, 2 in 1999) (RB)

7-4-103 Advisory services on population information development (2 in 1998, 2 in 1999) (RB)

2. Group training (seminars, workshops, symposia):

7-4-201 Regional conference on the family and older persons (1998) (RB/XB)

7-4-202 Regional seminar on monitoring and evaluation systems for reproductive health and family planning (1998) (RB/XB)

7-4-203 Policy seminar on female migration, employment, family formation and poverty (1998) (RB/XB)

7-4-204 POPIN workshop on technology information management (1998) (RB/XB)

7-4-205 Population information technology workshop (1998, 1999) (RB/XB)

7-4-206 POPIN consultative workshop (1998) (RB/XB)

7-4-207 Population information repackaging workshop (1999) (RB/XB)

Subprogramme 8. Transport and communications

Overview and summary of activities

This subprogramme comprises activities similar to those that had been carried out in 1996-1997 under subprogramme 4, Transport and communications. The legislative authority for the activities under this subprogramme derives from subprogramme 15.8, Transport and communications, of the medium-term plan for the period 1998-2001.

The focus of the work under this subprogramme will be to implement activities under the regional action programme of the New Delhi Action Plan on Infrastructure Development in Asia and the Pacific, prioritized and endorsed by the Ministerial Conference on Infrastructure held in New Delhi in October 1996. These activities are aimed at improving the planning process in developing infrastructure facilities and services at all levels, as well as the efficiency of its administration, management and operation in the countries of the region. Efforts will be made to enhance private sector involvement in national infrastructure development through financing, management, operations and risk-sharing, with a view to accelerating the provision of infrastructure required to sustain the economic and social growth processes. Development of interregional and intraregional transport linkages to enhance international trade and tourism will be undertaken through the implementation of the Asian land transport infrastructure development (ALTID) project. To facilitate integrated land-cum-sea transport, activities on freight forwarding and multimodal transport will be undertaken through close cooperation with other international organizations. With a view to increasing safety and safe working practices in transport and communication operations and to reducing the adverse environmental impact of the provision of infrastructure facilities and services to acceptable levels, assistance will be provided to member countries in promoting the safe transport of passengers and goods, particularly hazardous goods, while maintaining a clean environment, and implementing environmental impact assessments in relation to infrastructure development and operation. Assistance will also be provided to developing countries in promoting more equitable spatial distribution of economic activities and easier access to social amenities with the aim of alleviating poverty in the region. Activities will also be aimed at improving policies for planning tourism development, strengthening national capabilities in the development of human resources in the tourism sector and, in particular, tourism marketing, minimizing the environmental impact of tourism, and promoting tourism investment and facilitation of travel.

The work will be carried out by the Transport, Communications and Tourism Division under the guidance of the Committee on Transport, Communications, Tourism and Infrastracture Development.

Activities:

I. Servicing of intergovernmental and expert bodies (RB)

1. Substantive servicing of meetings:

(a) Commission:

8-1-101 Plenary and committees (1998) (8 meetings: 6 plenary and 2 committee sessions)

8-1-102 Plenary and committees (1999) (8 meetings: 6 plenary and 2 committee sessions)

(b) Committee on Transport, Communications, Tourism and Infrastructure Development

8-1-103 Plenary (1998) (6 meetings)

8-1-104 Plenary (1999) (6 meetings)

2. Parliamentary documentation:

(a) Commission:

8-1-201 Report of the Committee on Transport, Communications, Tourism and Infrastructure Development (1998, 1999)

8-1-202 Report on implementation of resolution 52/9 on Intra-Asia and Asia-Europe land bridges and the New Delhi Action Plan on Infrastructure Development in Asia and the Pacific (1998)

8-1-203 Report on implementation of the New Delhi Action Plan on Infrastructure Development in Asia and the Pacific (1999)

(b) Committee on Transport, Communications, Tourism and Infrastructure Development

8-1-205 Report on implementation of the New Delhi Action Plan on Infrastructure Development in Asia and the Pacific (1998, 1999)

8-1-206 Reports on issues related to transport, communications, tourism and infrastructure development (4 in 1998, 4 in 1999)

II. Other substantive activities (RB/XB)

1. Mandated recurrent publications:

8-2-101 Transport and Communications Bulletin for Asia and the Pacific (1998, 1999) (RB)

8-2-102 ESCAP Tourism Review (1998, 1999) (RB/XB)

8-2-103 ESCAP Tourism Newsletter (2 in 1998, 2 in 1999) (RB/XB)

2. Discretionary recurrent publications:

8-2-201 Infrastructure Newsletter for Asia and the Pacific (2 in 1998, 2 in 1999) (RB/XB)

3. Mandated non-recurrent publications:

8-2-301 Road network in North-East Asia (1999) (RB/XB)

8-2-302 Subregional Asian Highway route map (1999) (RB/XB)

8-2-303 Development of the Trans-Asian Railway (1999) (RB/XB)

8-2-304 Development of Asia-Europe rail container transport through block trains (1999) (RB/XB)

8-2-305 Review of regional/subregional agreements on land transport routes (1998) (RB/XB)

8-2-306 Road safety action plan (1998) (RB/XB)

8-2-307 Environmentally friendly energy for transport (1998) (RB/XB)

8-2-308 Methodologies for minimizing the environmental costs of damage caused by road transport (1999) (RB/XB)

8-2-309 Guidelines on a comprehensive and integrated approach to policy development in the field of infrastructure, traffic and transport for sustainable environment, mobility and access (1998) (RB/XB)

8-2-310 Integrated approach to urban transport planning (1998) (RB/XB)

8-2-311 Inter-island shipping: issues and strategies (1998) (RB/XB)

8-2-312 Framework for the development of shipping policies (1998) (RB/XB)

8-2-313 Policy issues for expansion of sustainable tourism development (1999) (RB/XB)

8-2-314 Promotion of tourism along the Asian Highway (1998) (RB/XB)

8-2-315 Guidelines on integrated tourism planning (1998) (RB/XB)

4. Discretionary non-recurrent publications:

8-2-401 Infrastructure pricing (1998) (RB/XB)

8-2-402 Role of inland waterways within an integrated transport system (1999) (RB/XB)

8-2-403 Training-of-trainers manual on participatory planning of rural infrastructure (1998) (RB/XB)

8-2-404 Marketing the railway product in the Asian and Pacific region (1998) (RB/XB)

5. Electronic, audio and video issuances, including films, videotapes, radio broadcasts, tapes of news, documentary and feature programmes:

8-2-501 ESCAP Homepage on the New Delhi Action Plan on Infrastructure Development in Asia and the Pacific on the World Wide Web (1998, 1999) (RB/XB)

8-2-502 ESCAP Homepage on the Asia Infrastructure Development Alliance on the World Wide Web (1998, 1999) (RB/XB)

8-2-503 ESCAP Homepage on Maritime Transport Information on the World Wide Web (1998, 1999) (RB/XB)

8. Technical material for outside users (databases, software etc.):

8-2-801 ESCAP database on infrastructure in the Asian and Pacific region (1998, 1999) (RB/XB)

8-2-802 Refining and updating of software for planning infrastructure facilities and services (1998, 1999) (RB/XB)

III. International cooperation and inter-agency coordination and liaison (RB/XB)

8-3-001 Collaboration with intergovernmental organizations, including ADB, APEC, APT, ASEAN, ECO, EU, Forum Secretariat, MRC, OSShD and SAARC in implementing the New Delhi Action Plan on Infrastructure Development in Asia and the Pacific (6 in 1998, 5 in 1999) (RB)

8-3-002 Collaboration with the United Nations bodies and specialized agencies, including other regional commissions, UNCTAD, ILO, ICAO, ITU, IMO and UPU in implementing the New Delhi Action Plan on Infrastructure Development in Asia and the Pacific (1998, 1999) (RB/XB)

8-3-003 Collaboration with non-governmental organizations, including the Global Infrastructure Fund, IRCA, IRU and the World Development Council in implementing the New Delhi Action Plan on Infrastructure Development in Asia and the Pacific (1998, 1999) (RB/XB)

8-3-004 Collaboration with the private sector, including the Asia Infrastructure Development Alliance, in implementing the New Delhi Action Plan on Infrastructure Development in Asia and the Pacific (2 in 1998, 2 in 1999) (RB)

8-3-005 Collaboration with the World Tourism Organization, MRC, PATA, TCSP and other tourism-related organizations on tourism development activities (1 in 1998, 2 in 1999) (RB)

8-3-006 Organization and servicing of the RICAP Subcommittee on Infrastructure Development in Asia and the Pacific (1998, 1999) (RB)

IV. Technical cooperation (RB/XB)

1. Advisory services at the request of the governments:

8-4-101 Advisory services on prospects for shipping and port development (1998) (RB/XB)

8-4-102 Advisory services on implementation of a comprehensive and integrated approach to policy development in the field of infrastructure, traffic and transport for sustainable environment, mobility and access (1998, 1999) (RB/XB)

8-4-103 Advisory services on participatory planning of rural infrastructure (1998) (RB/XB)

8-4-104 Advisory services on promotion of private sector participation in infrastructure development (1998, 1999) (RB/XB)

8-4-105 Advisory services on multimodal transport, freight forwarding and facilitation of maritime traffic (1998, 1999) (RB/XB)

8-4-106 Advisory services on transport of dangerous goods (1998) (RB/XB)

8-4-107 Advisory services on financial economic planning of infrastructure and project investment (1998, 1999) (RB/XB)

8-4-108 Advisory services on strengthening national capabilities in tourism development (1998, 1999) (RB/XB)

2. *Group training (seminars, workshops, symposia):*

8-4-201 Seminars/workshops on transport infrastructure development and facilitation (1998, 1999) (RB/XB)

8-4-202 Country-level workshops on road maintenance (1998, 1999) (RB/XB)

8-4-203 Training workshops on implementation of a comprehensive and integrated approach to policy development in the field of infrastructure, traffic and transport for sustainable environment, mobility and access (1998, 1999) (RB/XB)

8-4-204 Regional seminar on infrastructure pricing (1999) (RB/XB)

8-4-205 Seminar on networking of centres of excellence in infrastructure (1998) (RB/XB)

8-4-206 Symposium on private sector involvement in infrastructure development (1998) (RB/XB)

8-4-207 Subregional seminar on participatory planning of rural infrastructure (1998) (RB/XB)

8-4-208 Training workshop on integration of non-motorized transport in the urban transport system (1998) (RB/XB)

8-4-209 Training seminar on transport of dangerous goods (1998) (RB/XB)

8-4-210 Workshop on financial economic planning and evaluation of inland waterways transport projects (1998) (RB/XB)

8-4-211 Seminar on tourism planning and development (1999) (RB/XB)

8-4-212 Meetings on promotion of tourism in the Greater Mekong subregion (1998, 1999) (RB/XB)

8-4-213 Regional meeting on promotion of cooperation among tourism training institutes and organizations (1999) (RB/XB)

8-4-214 Regional seminar on facilitation of travel (1998) (RB/XB)

Subprogramme 9. Statistics

Overview and summary of activities

This subprogramme comprises activities similar to those that had been carried out in 1996-1997 under subprogramme 5, Statistics. The legislative authority for the activities under this subprogramme derives from subprogramme 15.9, Statistics, of the medium-term plan for the period 1998-2001.

The focus of work under this subprogramme will be to organize group training and provide advisory services in priority areas, including national accounts statistics and other economic statistics, gender statistics, population censuses and surveys, environment statistics and accounting, and management of statistical services. Those activities will be implemented in coordination with relevant global, regional and subregional statistical entities.

The growing competence of the membership in contributing to statistical capability-building will be taken into account in the modalities of regular and extrabudgetary activities. Regional-level coordination will be undertaken for the development, revision, testing and implementation of selected international statistical standards and, where necessary, their adaptation to meet the conditions and needs of the countries of the region.

Comparable socio-economic statistics will be disseminated through modern recurrent publications and off-line and on-line electronic media. The use of electronic technology will be increased in the acquisition of data with the aim of improving the timeliness and accuracy of published statistics and of reducing the response burden of reporting statistical offices. The ESCAP Statistical Information System will be improved in line with industry standards and as an integral part of the ESCAP overall information system. Senior-level public decision makers will be trained in effective management of information technology, including strategic policy formulation.

The work will be carried out by the Statistics Division under the guidance of the Committee on Statistics.

Activities:

I. Servicing of intergovernmental and expert bodies (RB)

1. Substantive servicing of meetings:

(a) Commission:

9-1-101 Plenary and committees (1998) (8 meetings: 6 plenary and 2 committee sessions)

9-1-102 Plenary and committees (1999) (8 meetings: 6 plenary and 2 committee sessions)

(b) Committee on Statistics:

9-1-103 Plenary (1998) (6 meetings)

2. Parliamentary documentation:

(a) Commission:

9-1-201 Report on issues related to statistics (1998)

9-1-202 Report of the Committee on Statistics (1999)

(b) Committee on Statistics:

9-1-203 Report of the Working Group of Statistical Experts (1998)

9-1-204 Report on selected issues on statistical development (1998)

9-1-205 Report on issues in computerization in the public sector (1998)

9-1-206 Report on an integrated presentation of work programmes on statistics in the region (1998)

9-1-207 Report on activities of the secretariat since the tenth session of the Committee (1998)

3. Ad hoc expert groups and related preparatory work:

9-1-301 Working Group Meeting of Statistical Experts (1999)

II. Other substantive activities (RB/XB)

1. Mandated recurrent publications:

9-2-101 Statistical Newsletter (4 in 1998, 4 in 1999) (RB)

9-2-102 Government Computerization Newsletter (2 in 1998, 2 in 1999) (RB)

9-2-103 Statistical Yearbook for Asia and the Pacific (1998, 1999) (RB)

9-2-104 Foreign Trade Statistics of Asia and the Pacific (1998, 1999) (RB)

9-2-105 Statistical Indicators for Asia and the Pacific (4 in 1998, 4 in 1999) (RB)

9-2-106 Asia-Pacific in Figures (1998, 1999) (RB)

2. Discretionary recurrent publications:

9-2-201 Newsletter on information technology applications in population statistics (2 in 1998, 1 in 1999) (RB/XB)

4. Discretionary non-recurrent publications:

9-2-401 Methodological guidelines on statistics (2 in 1998, 1 in 1999) (RB/XB)

5. *Electronic, audio and video issuances, including films, videotapes, radio broadcasts, tapes of news, documentary and feature programmes:*

9-2-501 ESCAP Homepage on Statistics on the World Wide Web (1998, 1999) (RB)

6. *Exhibits:*

9-2-601 Exhibit for the Committee on Statistics (1998) (RB)

7. *Booklets, pamphlets, fact sheets, wall charts, information kits:*

9-2-701 Wall chart on general/thematic statistics (1998, 1999) (RB)

8. *Technical material for outside users (databases, software etc.):*

9-2-801 Data disseminated on electronic media (CD-ROM, diskettes etc.) (1998, 1999) (RB)

9-2-802 Operation and maintenance of the ESCAP Statistical Information System (ESIS) (1998, 1999) (RB)

9-2-803 Responses to ad hoc requests from outside users for statistical information (1998, 1999) (RB)

III. International cooperation and inter-agency coordination and liaison (RB/XB)

9-3-001 Collaboration with intergovernmental organizations outside the United Nations system, including the East-West Center and South Pacific Commission (1 in 1998, 2 in 1999) (RB)

9-3-002 Collaboration with non-governmental organizations, including the International Statistical Institute (1999) (RB)

9-3-003 Collaboration with United Nations bodies and specialized agencies, including the United Nations Statistical Commission and Working Group, regional conferences of statisticians and FAO Asia-Pacific Commission on Agricultural Statistics (2 in 1998, 1 in 1999) (RB/XB)

9-3-004 Collaboration with the ACC Subcommittee on Statistical Activities (1 in 1998, 1 in 1999) (RB)

9-3-005 Technical and substantive support to UNFPA Country Support Teams in the region (3 in 1998, 3 in 1999) (RB/XB)

9-3-006 Technical and substantive support to the Statistical Institute for Asia and the Pacific (1998, 1999) (RB)

IV. Technical cooperation (RB/XB)

1. *Advisory services at the request of the governments:*

9-4-101 Advisory services on statistics on gender issues and other aspects of socio-economic statistics and indicators (5 in 1998) (RB/XB)

9-4-102 Advisory services on statistical organization and management, and application of information technology, including in the public sector (1998, 1999) (RB/XB)

2. *Group training (seminars, workshops, symposia):*

9-4-201 Regional/subregional workshops on population and social statistics, including the follow-up to global social conferences (2 in 1998) (RB/XB)

9-4-202 Regional/subregional workshops on economic statistics, including national accounts (2 in 1998, 2 in 1999) (RB/XB)

9-4-203 Regional/subregional workshops on environmental statistics and accounting (2 in 1998, 1 in 1999) (RB/XB)

9-4-204 Regional/subregional workshops on statistical organization and management, and application of information technology, including in the public sector (2 in 1999) (RB/XB)

Subprogramme 10. Least developed, landlocked and island developing countries

Overview and summary of activities

This subprogramme comprises activities similar to those that had been carried out in 1996-1997 under subprogramme 6, Least developed, landlocked and island developing countries. The legislative authority for the activities under this subprogramme derives from subprogramme 15.10, Least developed, landlocked and island developing countries, of the medium-term plan for the period 1998-2001.

The focus of work under this subprogramme will be to highlight trends and emerging problems, draw the attention of policy makers to priority concerns and improve the capacity of least developed, landlocked and island developing countries to integrate more closely into the dynamic regional development as well as into the international economy. Particular attention will be given to supporting their efforts at economic reform and more efficient resource mobilization and use, as well as to securing greater participation in the growing intraregional flows of investment. Priority will be given to activities in regional implementation of the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the 1990s and the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island States. Human resources development, especially developing the skills of public officials in the areas of macroeconomic policy formulation, will be emphasized.

Documentation and substantive services will be provided to the Commission on Sustainable Development, the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific, the Special Body on Least Developed and Landlocked Developing Countries, and the Special Body on Pacific Island Developing Countries. Non-recurrent publications will be prepared. Technical assistance in the areas outlined will be rendered with a view to translating into action the strong desire of the countries of the region to cooperate among themselves by sharing experience in practices and policies to tackle common issues.

The work will be carried out by the Development Research and Policy Analysis Division and the ESCAP Pacific Operations Centre under the guidance of the Special Bodies on Least Developed and Landlocked Developing Countries and on Pacific Island Developing Countries.

Activities:

I. Servicing of intergovernmental and expert bodies (RB)

1. Substantive servicing of meetings:

(a) Commission:

10-1-101 Plenary and committees (1998) (8 meetings: 6 plenary and 2 committee sessions)

10-1-102 Plenary and committees (1999) (8 meetings: 6 plenary and 2 committee sessions)

10-1-103 Informal meeting on least developed countries, Pacific island developing countries, and economies in transition (1998, 1999)

(b) Special Body on Least Developed and Landlocked Developing Countries:

10-1-104 Plenary (4 meetings) (1999)

(c) Special Body on Pacific Island Developing Countries:

10-1-105 Plenary (4 meetings) (1998)

2. Parliamentary documentation:

(a) Commission on Sustainable Development:

10-1-201 Report on follow-up to the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States (1998)

(b) Commission:

10-1-202 Report of the Special Body on Least Developed and Landlocked Developing Countries (1999)

10-1-203 Report of the Special Body on Pacific Island Developing Countries (1998)

(c) Special Body on Least Developed and Landlocked Developing Countries:

10-1-204 Reports on issues related to least developed and landlocked developing countries (2 in 1999)

(d) Special Body on Pacific Island Developing Countries:

10-1-205 Reports on issues related to Pacific island developing countries (2 in 1998)

II. Other substantive activities (RB/XB)

3. Mandated non-recurrent publications:

10-2-301 Review of implementation of the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the 1990s (1999) (RB/XB)

10-2-302 Enhancing cooperation in trade and investment between Pacific island countries and economies of East and South-East Asia (1998) (RB/XB)

10-2-303 Options for exchange rate policy in least developed countries (1999) (RB/XB)

III. International cooperation and inter-agency coordination and liaison (RB/XB)

10-3-001 Collaboration with UNCTAD on follow-up to the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the 1990s (1998, 1999) (RB)

10-3-002 Collaboration with the Department for Economic and Social Information and Policy Analysis and SPREP on follow-up to the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States (1998, 1999) (RB)

10-3-003 Collaboration with the Forum Secretariat and the South Pacific Commission on matters related to Pacific island developing countries (1998, 1999) (RB)

IV. Technical cooperation (RB/XB)

1. Advisory services at the request of the governments:

10-4-101 Advisory services on macroeconomic policy and related institution-building in least developed countries (1998, 1999) (RB/XB)

10-4-102 Advisory services on promotion of sustainable development in small island developing States (2 in 1998, 2 in 1999) (RB)

2. Group training (seminars, workshops, symposia):

10-4-201 Workshop on enhancing cooperation in trade and investment between Pacific island countries and economies of East and South-East Asia (1998) (RB/XB)

10-4-202 Workshop on options for exchange rate policy in least developed countries (1998) (RB/XB)

10-4-203 Seminar on the review of implementation of the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the 1990s (1999) (RB/XB)

Annex II

STATEMENT OF PROGRAMME BUDGET IMPLICATIONS OF ACTIONS AND PROPOSALS OF THE COMMISSION

1. The resolutions adopted by the Commission at its fifty-third session will have no additional cost implications for the regular budget of the United Nations. Following the streamlining of the conference structure, as set out in Commission resolution 53/1 of 30 April 1997, a saving of US$ 18,144 is envisaged as a result of the reduction in the resources required for external interpreters (equivalent to 36 days).

2. Extrabudgetary resources will be sought for the implementation of activities required under the three remaining resolutions adopted at the fifty-third session of the Commission.

Annex III

MEETINGS OF SUBSIDIARY BODIES

Subsidiary body and officers		*Session*	*Document symbol of report*[a]
Committee on Environment and Sustainable Development		Third session Bangkok 7-11 October 1996	E/ESCAP/1052
Chairperson:	Teken Tokataake (Kiribati)		
Vice-Chairpersons:	Zhong Shukong (China)		
	Malti Sinha (India)		
	Soukata Vichit (Lao People's Democratic Republic)		
	Guillermo Balce (Philippines)		
	Suphavit Piamphongsant (Thailand)		
Rapporteur:	Guillermo Balce (Philippines)		
Committee on Poverty Alleviation through Economic Growth and Social Development		Third session Bangkok 16-18 October 1996	E/ESCAP/1055
Chairperson:	Hong Sun Huot (Cambodia)		
Vice-Chairpersons:	Nestor Mijares IV (Philippines)		
	Nguyen Thi Hang (Viet Nam)		
Rapporteur:	K.B. Saxena (India)		
Ministerial Conference on Infrastructure		New Delhi 28-29 October 1996	E/ESCAP/1058
Chairperson:	T.G. Venkatraman (India)		

[a] Copies of reports that are not available through normal distribution channels at United Nations Headquarters or at Geneva may be obtained from the Regional Commissions New York Office at United Nations Headquarters.

Subsidiary body and officers	*Session*	*Document symbol of report*[a]

Ministerial Conference on Infrastructure (*continued*)

Vice-Chairpersons:

Anwar Hossain Manju
(Bangladesh)

Leki Dorji
(Bhutan)

Tram Iv Tek
(Cambodia)

Liu E
(China)

Ratu Inoke Kubuabola
(Fiji)

Gembong Priyono
(Indonesia)

Akbar Torkan
(Islamic Republic of Iran)

Hideo Kayahara
(Japan)

Ketebaev Muratbek Kamalbaevich
(Kazakstan)

Adam Zakirov
(Kyrgyzstan)

Phao Bounnaphol
(Lao People's Democratic Republic)

Dato Seri Ling Liong Sik
(Malaysia)

Ahmed Zahir
(Maldives)

T. Damiran
(Mongolia)

Bijay Kumar Gachhadar
(Nepal)

Ryoo Sang-Yol
(Republic of Korea)

Anatoly Aneksandrovich Zaitsev
(Russian Federation)

Hans J. Keil
(Samoa)

John Fisango
(Solomon Islands)

Mangala Samaraweera
(Sri Lanka)

Ismat Echmirzaiv
(Tajikistan)

Subsidiary body and officers		*Session*	*Document symbol of report*[a]
Ministerial Conference on Infrastructure (*continued*)			
Vice-Chairpersons: (*continued*)	Sombut Uthaisang (Thailand)		
	T. Azimbaev (Uzbekistan)		
	Samson Bue (Vanuatu)		
	Nguyen Tan Man (Viet Nam)		
Rapporteur:	Muhammad Sher Khan (Pakistan)		
Committee on Statistics		Tenth session Bangkok 25-29 November 1996	E/ESCAP/1061
Chairperson:	Frederick W.H. Ho (Hong Kong)		
Vice-Chairpersons:	Matiur Rahman (Bangladesh)		
	Timoci Bainimarama (Fiji)		
Rapporteur:	Romulo A. Virola (Philippines)		
Committee for Regional Economic Cooperation		Sixth session Bangkok 12-14 March 1997	E/ESCAP/1049
Chairperson:	V.S. Seshadri (India)		
Vice-Chairpersons:	Charmroon Malaigrong (Thailand)		
	Michael Regan (United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland)		
Rapporteur:	Viengsavanh Sipraseuth (Lao People's Democratic Republic)		

Subsidiary body and officers		*Session*	*Document symbol of report*[a]
Special Body on Pacific Island Developing Countries		Fourth session Bangkok 18-19 April 1997	E/ESCAP/1063
Chairperson:	Andres Uherbelau (Palau)		
Vice-Chairpersons:	Noumea Simi (Samoa)		
	Charan Plangtrakul (Thailand)		
Rapporteur:	Gerard Baudchon (New Caledonia)		
Special Body on Least Developed and Landlocked Developing Countries		Third session Bangkok 21-22 April 1997	E/ESCAP/1064
Chairperson:	Punya Prasad Dahal (Nepal)		
Vice-Chairpersons:	Sunee Sakaorat (Netherlands)		
	Steveen Kara (Solomon Islands)		
Rapporteur:	Fakrul Ahsan (Bangladesh)		

Annex IV

SALES PUBLICATIONS AND DOCUMENTS ISSUED BY THE COMMISSION

A. Sales publications

Title	*United Nations publication sales number*
Asia-Pacific Development Journal Vol. 2, No. 2, December 1995	E.96.II.F.19
Asia-Pacific in Figures 1996	E.96.II.F.38
Energy, Environment and Sustainable Development II (Energy Resources Development Series No. 35)	E.96.II.F.25
Statistical Indicators for Asia and the Pacific	
Vol. XXVI, No. 2, June 1996	E.96.II.F.24
Vol. XXVI, No. 3, September 1996	E.96.II.F.36
Vol. XXVI, No. 4, December 1996	E.96.II.F.39
Statistical Yearbook for Asia and the Pacific, 1995	E/F.96.II.F.1
Transport and Communications Bulletin for Asia and the Pacific, No. 66	E.96.II.F.22

B. Documents submitted to the Commission

Symbol	*Title*	*Agenda item*
E/ESCAP/L.133	Provisional agenda	3
E/ESCAP/L.134 and Corr.1 and 2	Annotated provisional agenda	3
E/ESCAP/1045	Asia and the Pacific into the twenty-first century: opportunities and challenges for the ESCAP region: summary	4 (a) and (b)
E/ESCAP/1046	Review of the conference structure of the Commission: resolution 48/2	5
E/ESCAP/1047	Independent review of the conference structure of the Commission: report of the Advisory Committee of Permanent Representatives and Other Representatives Designated by Members of the Commission	5
E/ESCAP/1048 and Corr.1	Report of the Regional Preparatory Meeting on the Review of the Conference Structure of the Commission	5
E/ESCAP/1049	Report of the Committee for Regional Economic Cooperation on its sixth session	6 (a)
E/ESCAP/1050	Regional economic cooperation: emerging issues and developments relevant to the subprogramme	6 (a)
E/ESCAP/1051	Report on the Asian and Pacific Centre for Transfer of Technology	6 (a)
E/ESCAP/1052	Report of the Committee on Environment and Sustainable Development on its third session	6 (b)
E/ESCAP/1053	Report on progress and achievements in the implementation of Commission resolutions and the follow-up of global conferences in connection with environment and sustainable development	6 (b)
E/ESCAP/1054	Environment and sustainable development: emerging issues and developments relevant to the subprogramme	6 (b)
E/ESCAP/1055	Report of the Committee on Poverty Alleviation through Economic Growth and Social Development on its third session	6 (c)
E/ESCAP/1056	Progress in the implementation of resolutions and decisions relating to poverty alleviation through economic growth and social development	6 (c)
E/ESCAP/1057 and Corr.1	Report on the Regional Coordination Centre for Research and Development of Coarse Grains, Pulses, Roots and Tuber Crops in the Humid Tropics of Asia and the Pacific	6 (c)
E/ESCAP/1058	Report of the Ministerial Conference on Infrastructure	6 (d)
E/ESCAP/1059	Evaluation of phase II (1992-1996) of the Transport and Communications Decade for Asia and the Pacific	6 (d)
E/ESCAP/1060	Report of the Intergovernmental Meeting on Tourism Development	6 (d)
E/ESCAP/1061	Report of the Committee on Statistics on its tenth session	6 (e)

Symbol	*Title*	*Agenda item*
E/ESCAP/1062	Report on the Statistical Institute for Asia and the Pacific	6 (e)
E/ESCAP/1063	Report of the Special Body on Pacific Island Developing Countries on its fourth session	6 (f)
E/ESCAP/1064	Report of the Special Body on Least Developed and Landlocked Developing Countries on its third session	6 (f)
E/ESCAP/1065 and Corr.1	Implementation of the programme of work, 1996-1997	7 (a)
E/ESCAP/1066	Proposed programme changes for 1997	7 (a)
E/ESCAP/1067 and Corr.1	Draft programme of work, 1998-1999	7 (b)
E/ESCAP/1068 and Corr.1	Tentative calendar of meetings, April 1997-March 1998	7 (c)
E/ESCAP/1069	Technical cooperation activities of ESCAP and announcement of intended contributions	8
E/ESCAP/1070	Strengthening inter-organizational cooperation in the promotion of economic and social development in the region	9
E/ESCAP/1071	Report of the Asian and Pacific Development Centre	10
E/ESCAP/1072	Report of the Coordinating Committee for Coastal Geoscience Programmes in East and Southeast Asia	10
E/ESCAP/1073	Report of the Mekong River Commission	10
E/ESCAP/1074	Report of the Typhoon Committee	10
E/ESCAP/1075 and Add.1	Report of the Advisory Committee of Permanent Representatives and Other Representatives Designated by Members of the Commission	11
E/ESCAP/1076	Date, venue and any other subject pertaining to the fifty-fourth session of the Commission	12
E/ESCAP/1077	Report on the Regional Network for Agricultural Machinery	6 (a)
E/ESCAP/1078	Institutional framework and policy dialogue for the promotion of industrial restructuring in the Asian and Pacific region	6 (a)
E/ESCAP/1079 and Corr.1	Report of the senior officials' segment on the review of the conference structure of the Commission: resolution 48/2	5

Annex V

LIST OF PUBLICATIONS, MEETINGS AND ADVISORY SERVICES

A. List of publications

Regional economic cooperation

Application and Extension of the Technology Atlas (ST/ESCAP/1654)

Asia-Pacific Development Journal, vol. 2, No. 2, December 1995 (ST/ESCAP/1603); vol. 3, No. 1, June 1996 (ST/ESCAP/1698)

Compendium on Standards for Seafood Exports in Selected Pacific Island Developing Countries (ST/ESCAP/1668)

Directory of Biotechnology Institutions in Asia and the Pacific (ST/ESCAP/1613)

Economic and Social Survey of Asia and the Pacific 1996 (ST/ESCAP/1616)

ESCAP Training Module, EDI and UN/EDIFACT - A Technical Overview (diskettes)

Fertilizer Trade Information Monthly Bulletin, January-December 1996

Foreign Investment Guidelines: 1. *Thailand* (ST/ESCAP/1578); 2. *Malaysia* (ST/ESCAP/1598); 3. *Sri Lanka* (ST/ESCAP/1643); 4. *Bangladesh* (ST/ESCAP/1692)

Macroeconomic Reforms in Indo-China: Lessons from the Development Experiences of Indonesia, Malaysia and Singapore (ST/ESCAP/1599)

Policies and Strategies for Promoting the Role of the Private Sector in Industrial and Technological Development, including Privatization in South Asian Economies (ST/ESCAP/1696)

Prices of Selected Asia-Pacific Products, January-November 1996

Regional Cooperation on the Adoption of ISO 9000 Series (ST/ESCAP/1670)

Revised Pacific Harmonized Customs Tariff Schedule: Cook Islands (ST/ESCAP/1579); *Kiribati* (ST/ESCAP/1556); *Niue* (ST/ESCAP/1541); *Tonga* (ST/ESCAP/1561); *Tuvalu* (ST/ESCAP/1478)

Strengthening the Private Sector in Enhancing Manufacturing Competitiveness (ST/ESCAP/1691)

Studies in Trade and Investment: 14. *Promotion of Investment in Countries in the Early Stages of Tourism Development: Mongolia, Myanmar, Nepal, Viet Nam* (ST/ESCAP/1597); 17. *Prospects for the Textile and Clothing Sector of the ESCAP Region in the Post-Uruguay Round Context* (ST/ESCAP/1642); 18. *Trade and Investment Complementarities in North-East Asia* (ST/ESCAP/1640); 19. *Myanmar: Trade and Investment Potential in Asia* (ST/ESCAP/1671); 20. *Promoting Exports of Fish and Fishery Products in Selected Island Developing Countries of the ESCAP Region* (ST/ESCAP/1677); 21. *Enhancing Trade and Environment Linkages in Selected Environmentally Vulnerable Export-oriented Sectors of the ESCAP Region* (ST/ESCAP/1704); 22. *Asian and Pacific Developing Economies and the First WTO Ministerial Conference: Issues of Concern* (ST/ESCAP/1705)

TISNET Trade and Investment Information Bulletin, Nos. 309-331

Working Alphabetical Index for the Pacific Harmonized Customs Tariff Schedules (diskettes - Index-PHCTS)

Environment and sustainable development

Agro-Chemicals News in Brief, vol. XIX, Nos. 1-4; Special Issue, September 1996

Asian-Pacific Remote Sensing and GIS Journal, vol. 8, No. 2

Coastal Environmental Management Plan for Pakistan (ST/ESCAP/1360)

Database on Pesticides and the Environment (PESTICIDES-ENVIRONMENT)

ESCAP Energy News, vol. XIII, No. 2

Energy Resources Development Series: No. 35. *Energy, Environment and Sustainable Development II* (ST/ESCAP/1623)

Environmental News Briefing: A Selection from the Region's Press, vol. 10, Nos. 1-3

Fertilizer Legislation for Quality Control and Environmental Protection (ST/ESCAP/1641)

Fertilizer Marketing in the Philippines (ST/ESCAP/1661)

Fertilizer Policies and Subsidies in Developing Asia (ST/ESCAP/1711)

Guidelines on the Participatory Approach to Urban Environmental Management (ST/ESCAP/1628)

Modelling Framework for Sustainable Development: A Methodology for Integrating Environmental Considerations into Economic Planning (ST/ESCAP/1610)

Ministerial Conference on Environment and Development in Asia and the Pacific, Bangkok, 22-28 November 1995: Declaration and Regional Action Programme (ST/ESCAP/1653)

Space Technology Applications Newsletter, vol. 13, Nos. 3-4; vol. 14, Nos. 1-2

Supply, Marketing, Distribution and Use of Fertilizer in Sri Lanka (ST/ESCAP/1678)

Technical Aspects and Legal Framework for the Removal and Disposal of Offshore Installations and Structures in Asia and the Pacific (ST/ESCAP/1664)

Transfer of Environmentally Sound Technologies, Cooperation and Capacity-building: A Study Report (ST/ESCAP/1662)

Water Resources Journal, March 1996 (ST/ESCAP/SER.C/188); June 1996 (ST/ESCAP/SER.C/189); September 1996 (ST/ESCAP/SER.C/190)

Poverty alleviation through economic growth and social development

1996 ESCAP Population Data Sheet

Asia-Pacific Fact Sheet on Drug Demand Reduction and HIV/AIDS Prevention, No. 6

Asia-Pacific POPIN Bulletin, vol. 8, Nos. 1-3

Asia-Pacific Population Journal, vol. 11, Nos. 1-4

Asian and Pacific Decade of Disabled Persons: Action Targets, Gender Dimensions (ST/ESCAP/1669)

Asian Population Studies Series: No. 139, *Population Ageing in Asia and the Pacific* (ST/ESCAP/1594); No. 140, *Population Ageing and Development: Report of the Regional Seminar on Population Ageing and Development, Bangkok, 11-14 December 1995* (ST/ESCAP/1680); No. 141, *Added Years of Life in Asia: Current Situation and Future Challenges* (ST/ESCAP/1688); No. 142, *Survey of Spontaneous Migration to a Rural and an Urban Area in Viet Nam* (ST/ESCAP/1644); No. 143, *Annotated Bibliography on Productive Ageing in Asia and the Pacific* (ST/ESCAP/1695)

Catalogue of ESCAP Population Publications, 1996

Compendium of United Nations Programmes on Rural Poverty Alleviation (1996-1997) (ST/ESCAP/1713)

Economic Liberalization and Rural Poverty - A Study on the Effects of Price Liberalization and Market Reforms in Asian Developing Countries (ST/ESCAP/1686)

ESCAP HRD Newsletter, Nos. 6-7

Guidelines for Implementing the Agenda for Action on Social Development in the ESCAP Region (ST/ESCAP/1700)

Lifelong Preparation for Old Age in Asia and the Pacific (ST/ESCAP/1684)

Living in Asian Cities (ST/ESCAP/1660)

Policy and Programme Perspectives in Implementing the Agenda for Action on Social Development in the ESCAP Region (ST/ESCAP/1714)

Population Headliners, Nos. 250-255

Poverty Alleviation Initiatives, vol. 6, Nos. 1-4

Public Participation in Settlements Improvements and Infrastructure Delivery: A Bibliography (ST/ESCAP/1645)

Report and Proceedings of the Bandung Regional Policy Workshop on Municipal Revenue Enhancing Strategies (ST/ESCAP/1667)

Report and Proceedings of the Workshop on the Use of Urban Forums as Consultative Mechanisms for Urban Planning and Policy-making (ST/ESCAP/1602)

Rural Poverty Alleviation and Sustainable Development in Asia and the Pacific (ST/ESCAP/1617)

Social Development Newsletter, Nos. 34-35

Towards Social Security for the Poor in the Asia-Pacific Region (ST/ESCAP/1673)

WINAP Newsletter, No. 18

Transport and communications

Asian Highway Route Map

Asian Highway Routes in Afghanistan, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Islamic Republic of Iran, Pakistan and Central Asian Republics with Links to E-road Network in Turkey

Decade News, No. 8

ESCAP Tourism Review: No. 16, *Promotion of Tourism in the Greater Mekong Subregion* (ST/ESCAP/1519); No. 17, *Integrated Tourism Planning in Pacific Island Countries* (ST/ESCAP/1638)

Guidelines on Integrated Tourism Planning in Pacific Island Countries (ST/ESCAP/1637)

Highway Network Development in the Asian Republics (ST/ESCAP/1697)

Study on Regional Cooperation in Human Resources Development in the Tourism Sector in the ESCAP Region (ST/ESCAP/1639)

The Economic Impact of Tourism in the Asian Region (ST/ESCAP/1683)

Trans-Asian Railway Route Requirements: Feasibility Study on Connecting Rail Networks of China, Kazakstan, Mongolia, the Russian Federation and the Korean Peninsula (ST/ESCAP/1663); *Preliminary Study on Development of the Trans-Asian Railway in the Southern Corridor of Asia-Europe Routes* (ST/ESCAP/1681); *Development of the Trans-Asian Railway in the Indo-China and ASEAN Subregion*: vol. 1, *Executive Summary*; vol. 2, *Indonesia, Malaysia, Singapore and Thailand (South)*; vol. 3, *Cambodia, Southern China, the Lao People's Democratic Republic, Myanmar, Thailand (North and East) and Viet Nam* (ST/ESCAP/1679)

Transport and Communications Bulletin for Asia and the Pacific, No. 66 (ST/ESCAP/SER.E/66)

Statistics

Asia-Pacific in Figures, 1996 (ST/ESCAP/1717)

Government Computerization Newsletter, Nos. 7-8

Statistical Indicators for Asia and the Pacific, vol. XXVI, No. 1 (ST/ESCAP/1652); No. 2 (ST/ESCAP/1672); No. 3 (ST/ESCAP/1685); No. 4 (ST/ESCAP/1718)

Statistical Newsletter, Nos. 100-103

Statistical Profiles: No. 1. *Socio-economic Profile of SAARC Countries: A Statistical Analysis* (ST/ESCAP/1537); No. 2. *Women of Bangladesh - A Country Profile* (ST/ESCAP/1546); No. 3. *Women in the Philippines - A Country Profile* (ST/ESCAP/1547); No. 4. *Women of Nepal - A Country Profile* (ST/ESCAP/1558); No. 5. *Women in Thailand - A Country Profile* (ST/ESCAP/1649)

Statistical Yearbook for Asia and the Pacific, 1995 (ST/ESCAP/1587)

B. List of meetings

Regional economic cooperation

Expert Group Meeting on Development Issues and Policies, Bangkok, January 1996

Indo-China Seminar on Promoting Women's Participation in Economic Development, Hanoi, January 1996

Seminar on Quality Management for the Promotion of Exports for Company Executives, Hanoi, January 1996

Symposium on Fostering Myanmar's Interdependency in Trade and Investment with its Neighbouring Countries and Japan, Yangon, January 1996

Consultative Expert Group Meeting on Regional Cooperation in the Adoption of the ISO 9000 Series, Bangkok, February 1996

Business English Course for Executives of Small and Medium-sized Enterprises, Hanoi, February-March and November-December 1996

Forum for the Comprehensive Development of Indo-China, Private Sector Advisory Group, Bangkok, March 1996

Steering Group of the Committee for Regional Economic Cooperation, eighth meeting, Seoul, March 1996

Regional ESCAP/KIET (Korea Institute of Electronics Technology) Symposium on Strengthening the Private Sector in Enhancing Manufacturing Competitiveness, Seoul, March 1996

ESCAP/UNU/UNIFEM Regional Conference on Bridging the Gap: Formulating Industrial Policies and Women's Work for the Future, Bangkok, March 1996

Seminar on Promoting Exports of Fish and Fishery Products of Selected Island Developing Countries, Bangkok, March 1996

Seminar on Export Marketing, Vientiane, April 1996

Seminar on Financing and Banking for Export Promotion, Vientiane, April 1996

National Workshops on Promoting Women's Participation in Economic Development: Hanoi, May 1996; Vientiane, June 1996; and Phnom Penh, November 1996

National Workshop on the Promotion of Foreign Direct Investment in Nepal, Kathmandu, May 1996

ESCAP/ITC Workshop on International Market Research for Trade Officials of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Bangkok, May 1996

Seminar on Poverty Alleviation through Technological Capacity-building, Beijing, June 1996

Seminar on the Mobilization of Private Sector Financial Resources for Infrastructure Development in Indo-China, Bangkok, June 1996

Subregional Symposium on Strengthening the Role of the Private Sector and Privatization for Industrial and Technological Development in South Asian Economies, Bangkok, June 1996

Seminar on the Implications of the Single European Market for Asian and Pacific Economies: Opportunities and Challenges, Bangkok, July 1996

Seminar on Enhancing Trade and Environment Linkages in Environmentally Vulnerable Export-oriented Sectors of the ESCAP Region, Bangkok, July-August 1996

Symposium on Uruguay Round Issues and China's Membership of WTO, Beijing, August 1996

National Workshop on Economic Reforms in Viet Nam: Policy Analysis, Macroeconomic Reforms and Macroeconomic Models, Hanoi, August 1996

Seminar on the Promotion of Regional Economic Cooperation in Foreign Direct Investment Policies and Related Institution-building among Asian and Pacific Developing Countries, Bangkok, September 1996

ESCAP/UNCTAD/UNDP Meeting of Senior Officials to Assist in Preparation for the First WTO Ministerial Conference, Jakarta, September 1996

Subregional Seminar on Key Issues in Implementation of Economic Reform Policies in the Central Asian Countries and the Russian Federation, Almaty, September 1996

Meeting of the Chambers of Commerce and Industry in the Greater Mekong Subregion, Ho Chi Minh City, Viet Nam, September 1996

Seminar on Trade Policy Issues for Papua New Guinea, Port Moresby, October 1996

Regional Workshop on Techniques for Project Identification, Preparation and Appraisal in the Economies in Transition, Bangkok, October 1996

National Workshops on Enhancing the National Capability of the Economies in Transition on the Use and Application of Electronic Data Interchange in International Trade, Moscow and Yerevan, October 1996

ESCAP/BIDS (Bangladesh Institute of Development Studies)/UNDP National Seminar on the Networking of Trade-related Research Institutions in Asia and the Pacific, Dhaka, October 1996

ESCAP Network on Trade Facilitation, fourth meeting, New Delhi, October-November 1996

Seminar on Technological Options to Issues Related to River Dam Construction, Wuhan, China, November 1996

Sixth Asia-Pacific International Trade Fair (ASPAT'96), Manila, November 1996

ESCAP/UNIDO Nanjing Forum '96 on Technology Cooperation for Rural Small and Medium Scale Industries, Nanjing, China, November 1996

ESCAP/University of Auckland Seminar for the Development of an Asia-Pacific Information Exchange, Auckland, New Zealand, November 1996

Asian and Pacific Centre for Transfer of Technology: Technical Advisory Committee, twelfth meeting, and Governing Board, eleventh session, Kathmandu, November 1996

RICAP Subcommittee on Industry and Technology, Bangkok, December 1996

Environment and sustainable development

Regional Seminar on the Promotion of Energy Efficiency and Institution-building in Transitional Economies in Asia, Bangkok, January 1996

Study Tour on Policies and Institution-building for Energy Efficiency Promotion in Thailand, Bangkok, January 1996

Regional Seminar on the Promotion of Environmentally Sound and Healthy Cities, Bangkok, January 1996

Regional Training Workshop on Application of Methodologies and Tools to Evaluate Environmental Impacts of National Energy Demand through Energy Conservation and Fuel Switching, Asian Institute of Technology, Bangkok, January 1996; and training, January-February 1996

High-level Meeting on the Regional Network of Research and Training Centres on Desertification Control in Asia and the Pacific, Geneva, Switzerland, February 1996

Expert Group Meeting to Review and Analyse Water Pricing Policies and Structures in the ESCAP Region, Bangkok, February 1996

Regional Working Group on Satellite Communication Applications, Jakarta, February 1996

Expert Group Meeting on a Guidebook on the Promotion of Investments for Water Supply and Sanitation Projects, Bangkok, February-March 1996

WMO/ESCAP Panel on Tropical Cyclones, twenty-third session, New Delhi, March 1996

RICAP Subcommittee on Environment and Sustainable Development, seventh meeting, Bangkok, March 1996

ALGAS (Asia Least-cost Greenhouse Gas Abatement Strategy) Regional Workshop on the Development of Greenhouse Gas Mitigation Least-cost Plans and Projects, Bangkok, March 1996

Regional Working Group on Meteorological Satellite Applications and Natural Hazards Monitoring, Beijing, March 1996

ALGAS Project Review Board Meeting, Bangkok, March 1996

International Seminar on Productivity and Energy Efficiency in the Refinery Industry of Central Asia and the Russian Federation, Ashgabat, March 1996

Regional Workshop on Fertilizer Subsidies and Price Policy in Developing Asia, Bali, Indonesia, April 1996

Forum on Urban Geology in Asia and the Pacific-cum-Project Review Meeting on Environmental and Urban Geology for Sustainable Development of Fast-growing Cities, Bangkok, April 1996

International Symposium on High Temperature Geothermal Energy Development and Utilization, Kunming and Tengchong, China, April 1996

Expert Group Meeting on Regional Cooperation on Climate Change, Bangkok, April-May 1996

Regional Working Group on Space Science and Technology Applications, Taejon, Republic of Korea, April-May 1996

Regional Workshop on Fertilizer Concepts with Special Reference to Organic Fertilizers, Tagaytay City, Philippines, May 1996

Meeting of the Regional Working Group on Remote Sensing, GIS and Satellite-based Positioning, Kuala Lumpur, June 1996

RICAP Subcommittee on Space Applications for Sustainable Development, Kuala Lumpur, June 1996

Intergovernmental Consultative Committee on the Regional Space Applications Programme for Sustainable Development, second session, Kuala Lumpur, June 1996

RICAP Subcommittee on Water, Bangkok, June and December 1996

Ad Hoc Expert Group Meeting on Sustainable Development of Water Resources, Bangkok, July 1996

Meeting of the Working Group of the Inter-agency Committee on Environment and Sustainable Development, Bangkok, July 1996

Expert Group Meeting on the Utilization of Agricultural Biomass as an Energy Source, Bangkok, July 1996

Regional Workshop on Demand Side Management in Integrated Resource Planning of the Power Sector, Kota Kinabalu, Malaysia, July 1996

Seminar on Energy Conservation through Quality Control Activities for the Industrial Sector in Mongolia, Ulaanbaatar, July-August 1996

Workshop on the Establishment of Pricing Policies and Structures for Urban and Rural Water Supply in the ESCAP Region, Manila, August 1996

Fifth Regional Remote Sensing Seminar on Tropical Ecosystem Management, Suva, August 1996

National Workshops on Sustainable Agricultural Development Strategies: Dhaka and Kathmandu, September 1996; Thimpu, December 1996

Workshop on Fertilizer Sector Development in Mongolia, Ulaanbaatar, September 1996

Third Meeting of Senior Officials on Environmental Cooperation in North-East Asia, Ulaanbaatar, September 1996

Workshop on Sustainable Rural Development Using Integrated Remote Sensing and GIS, Hyderabad, India, September 1996

Technical Symposium and Investment Round Table on Transport-related Contracts for Natural Gas, Kuala Lumpur, October 1996

FADINAP/FAI/NFS Marketing Management Training Seminar, Colombo, October 1996

High-level Seminar on Integrated Uses of Space Applications for Poverty Alleviation and Rural Development, Bangkok, October 1996

Regional Seminar on Population, Environment Dynamics, Poverty and Quality of Life, Bangkok, October 1996

Demonstration-cum-Workshop on Low Air Pollution Coal-fired Power Plant Technology, Tongliao, China, October 1996

National Workshops on the Use of Training Modules on Women, Water Supply and Sanitation: Manila, October 1996; and Vientiane, November 1996

ESCAP/UNEP Subregional Meeting on Military Activities and the Environment for South-East Asian Countries, Bangkok, October 1996

Regional Workshop on Fertilizer Adulteration and Quality Control, Islamabad, October 1996

High-level Seminar on Integrated Uses of Space Technology Applications for Poverty Alleviation and Rural Development, Bangkok, October 1996

Seminar on the Review and Finalization of a Guidebook on the Promotion of Investments for Water Supply and Sanitation Projects, Pattaya, Thailand, October-November 1996

Workshop on the Establishment of Pricing Policies and Structures for Irrigation Water Supply in the ESCAP Region, Jakarta, October-November 1996

Training Course on the Integrated Use of Remote Sensing and GIS for Land-use Mapping, Yogyakarta, Indonesia, October-December 1996

Regional Seminar on Energy Efficiency Standards for Commercial Buildings in Asia and Related Legislation, Bangkok, November 1996

Seminar on Geo-information Systems for Coastal Zone Development Planning, Colombo, November 1996

ESCAP/USEPA (United States Environmental Protection Agency)/ADB Landfill Gas-to-Energy Training Workshop for Asia and the Pacific, Bangkok, November 1996

National Training Workshops on the Use of Training Modules on Women, Water Supply and Sanitation: Vientiane and Hanoi, November 1996

Regional Consultative Meeting on Environmentally Sound and Sustainable Development Indicators, Bangkok, November 1996

Training Workshop on Industrial Audit for Waste Minimization, Bangkok, December 1996

Meeting of Principal Investigators under the Joint ESCAP/NASDA (National Space Development Agency of Japan) Research Programme on the Use of Advanced Earth Observing Satellite (ADEOS) Data, Bangkok, December 1996

IFA/FADINAP Regional Meeting, Bali, Indonesia, December 1996

Seminar on the Establishment of Guidelines on Water and Sustainable Development, Bangkok, December 1996

National Workshop on Soil Fertility and Plant Nutrition Management, Kathmandu, December 1996

Poverty alleviation through economic growth and social development

National Training Course on Community-based Drug Demand Reduction and HIV/AIDS Prevention: Hanoi, January 1996; Kunming, China, January 1996; Vientiane, February 1996; Assam, India, September-October 1996; Dhaka, September 1996

RICAP Subcommittee on Urbanization: Bangkok, January 1996; Bangkok, August 1996; Bangkok, November 1996

Indo-China Seminar on Promoting Women's Participation in Economic Development, Hanoi, January 1996

Expert Consultation on Lifelong Preparation for Old Age, Bangkok, January 1996

Evaluation Meeting for the Community-based Drug Abuse Prevention Project, Ruilin, China, January 1996

Evaluation Workshop on Community-based Drug Demand Reduction, Muse, Myanmar, January 1996

Inaugural Seminar and Workshop to Launch the Beijing Pilot Project on Promotion of Non-handicapping Environments for Disabled and Elderly Persons, Beijing, January-February 1996

ESCAP/CCA (Christian Conference of Churches) Consultation on Youth Training, Bangkok, February 1996

Pacific Workshop on Management of Self-help Organizations of People with Disabilities, Suva, February 1996

Meeting of the Jury for the 1995 ESCAP HRD Award, Bangkok, February 1996

RICAP Subcommittee on Poverty Alleviation, Bangkok, February 1996

Second Asia-Pacific Urban Forum, Bangkok, March 1996

China-Myanmar Cross-border Meeting on Drug Demand Reduction and HIV/AIDS Prevention, Kunming, China, March 1996

National Workshops on Training of Trainers for Youth Participation in Development: Vientiane, March 1996; Hanoi, April-May 1996; Kathmandu, September 1996; Dhaka, November 1996

Regional Workshop on Guidelines for Implementation of the Agenda for Action on Social Development in the ESCAP Region, Bangkok, March 1996

Study Directors' Meeting on Status of Women in Poverty, Kuala Lumpur, April 1996

National Training and Planning Seminars on the "Success-case-replication" Methodology: Thailand, April 1996; Bhutan, June 1996; Vientiane, October-November 1996; Hanoi, November 1996

Preparatory Meeting for the Bangkok Pilot Project on the Promotion of Non-handicapping Environments for Disabled and Elderly Persons, Bangkok, April 1996

Training Courses for Trainers of School-based Drug Demand Reduction and HIV/AIDS Prevention: Chiang Rai, Thailand, April-June 1996; Keng Tung, Myanmar, June-July 1996

Meeting of Senior Officials on a Policy Framework for Lifelong Preparation for Old Age, Bangkok, May 1996

RICAP Subcommittee on Disability-related Concerns, Bangkok, May 1996

RICAP Subcommittee on HIV/AIDS: Bangkok, May 1996; Bangkok, June 1996; Bangkok, September 1996; Bangkok, November 1996

Regional Seminar on the Role of the Informal Service Sector in Poverty Alleviation, Bangkok, May 1996

Seminar on the Role of the Wage System in Economic Planning, Beijing, May 1996

Seminar on Poverty Alleviation through Technological Capacity-building, Beijing, June 1996

Orientation Workshop for SAARC Seven Sisters: District Development Coordination and Improved Poverty Project Design: Kathmandu, June 1996; Review Meeting, Nuwara Eliya, Sri Lanka, October 1996

Expert Group Meeting on the Utilization of Agricultural Biomass as an Energy Source, Bangkok, July 1996

RICAP Subcommittee on Population and Development, Bangkok, July 1996

Regional Expert Group Meeting on Promoting Women's Rights as Human Rights, Saitama, Japan, August 1996

Planning Meeting for the Project on Promoting and Implementing the Jakarta Plan of Action for the Advancement of Women in Asia and the Pacific and the Platform for Action, Dhaka, August 1996

Regional Meeting on Strengthening National Machineries for the Advancement of Women, Seoul, September 1996

Training Courses on the Development of Media Campaigns and Community Outreach Approaches in Drug Demand Reduction and HIV/AIDS Prevention: Chiang Rai, Thailand, September 1996; Keng Tung, Myanmar, September-October 1996

Training Workshop on Selected Population Topics and Information Technology for Population Information Professionals, Beijing, October 1996

Ad Hoc Expert Group Meeting on the Gender Role in Family Planning Management, Bangkok, October 1996

Organizational Workshop for East and South-East Asia POPIN, Beijing, October 1996

Workshop on the Promotion of Non-handicapping Environments in the Asia-Pacific Region, Sendai, Japan, October 1996

Regional Training Course on Community-based Prevention of Juvenile Delinquency, Bangkok, October 1996

Asia-Pacific Meeting on Human Resources Development for Youth, Beijing, October 1996

Workshop on the Promotion of Self-help Initiatives of People with Disabilities, Hanoi, October 1996

RICAP Subcommittee on the Advancement of Women, Bangkok, November 1996

Policy Seminar on Effective Participatory Urban Management, Shanghai, China, November 1996

Study Directors' Meeting on the Use of Population Data for Local Area Development Planning in the Countries of the ESCAP Region, Bangkok, November 1996

Nanjing Forum on Technology Cooperation for Rural Small and Medium Scale Industries, Nanjing, China, November 1996

Asia-Pacific POPIN Internet Training Workshop, Bangkok, November 1996

Workshop on Social Marketing for Urban Forums in Thailand, Nakorn Nayok, Thailand, November 1996

Expert Group Meeting on the Implications of Asia's Population Future for the Family and the Elderly, Bangkok, November 1996

Regional Coordination Centre for Research and Development of Coarse Grains, Pulses, Roots and Tuber Crops in the Humid Tropics of Asia and the Pacific: Technical Advisory Committee, fourteenth session, Bogor, Indonesia, November 1996; Governing Board, fifteenth session, Bogor, Indonesia, December 1996

Seminar to Launch a Pilot Project on Disability-friendly Neighbourhoods and Workshop to Finalize an Action Plan, New Delhi, December 1996

National Workshops on the Promotion and Implementation of the Jakarta Declaration and Beijing Platform for Action: Colombo, December 1996; Hyderabad, India, December 1996; Lahore, Pakistan, December 1996; Dhaka, December 1996

Regional Workshop on Women in Urban Local Governments in South Asia, Allahabad, India, December 1996

Thailand-Myanmar Cross-border Commencement Meeting on Drug Demand Reduction and HIV/AIDS Prevention, Chiang Rai, Thailand, December 1996

National Workshop on Implementation of the Agenda for Action on Social Development in the ESCAP Region, Kathmandu, December 1996

Inaugural Seminar and Workshops to Launch the New Delhi Pilot Project on the Promotion of Non-handicapping Environments for Disabled and Elderly Persons, New Delhi, December 1996

Transport and communications

Policy-level Expert Group Meeting on the Trans-Asian Railway in the Indo-China and ASEAN Subregion, Bangkok, February 1996

Country-level Seminar on the Japanese Travel Market, Vientiane, March 1996

Steering Committee to Establish an Asia Infrastructure Development Alliance: second meeting, Bangkok, April 1996; final meeting, Bangkok, September 1996

Working Group on the Greater Mekong Subregion Tourism Sector: third meeting, Pattaya, Thailand, April 1996; fourth meeting, Ho Chi Minh City, Viet Nam, November 1996

Subregional Seminar on the Implications of Accession to Land Transport Facilitation Conventions for Countries of North-East Asia, Bangkok, May 1996

Regional Training of Trainers Course on Inland Water Transport, Nanjing, China, June 1996

ESCAP/World Bank Seminar on Infrastructure Regulation for Central Asian Republics and Mongolia, Bangkok, June-July 1996

Meeting on Participatory Planning of Rural Infrastructure, Vientiane, July 1996

Country-level Workshop on Training for Senior Officials on Freight Forwarding, Yangon, July 1996

ESCAP/UNCTAD Country-level Course on Multimodal Transport, Dhaka, July 1996

Expert Group Meeting on Preparations for the Ministerial Conference on Infrastructure, Kuala Lumpur, July 1996

ESCAP/IMO Country-level Seminar on the Facilitation of Maritime Traffic: Dhaka, July 1996; Colombo, July 1996; Karachi, Pakistan, September-October 1996

ESCAP/ADB Seminar-cum-Workshop on Road Safety in the ESCAP Region, Bangkok, September 1996

ESCAP/World Bank Seminar on Management and Financing of Road Maintenance, Bangkok, September 1996

General Body of the Asia Infrastructure Development Alliance, Bangkok, September 1996

Country-level Workshop on Financial/Economic Appraisal of Inland Water Transport Projects: Phnom Penh, September-October 1996; Yangon, November 1996; Dhaka, November 1996; Vientiane, December 1996

Subregional Seminar on Freight Forwarding, Dalian, China, October 1996

ESCAP/IMO Subregional Seminar on the Facilitation of Maritime Traffic, Tehran, October 1996

Meeting of Senior Government Officials in Preparation for the Ministerial Conference on Infrastructure, New Delhi, October 1996

Country-level Seminar on Commercialization and Private Sector Involvement in Ports: Bangkok and Chittagong, Bangladesh, November 1996

ESCAP-Japan Symposium on Asian Highway Development, Tokyo, November 1996

Seminar on Tourism Promotion in Countries in an Early Stage of Tourism Development, Ho Chi Minh City, Viet Nam, November 1996

ESCAP/ADB Seminar on Benefits of Acceding to International Conventions on Land Transport Facilitation for Countries of the Greater Mekong Subregion, Bangkok, November 1996

Subregional Workshop on Land Transport of Hazardous Goods, Bangkok, December 1996

Intergovernmental Meeting on Tourism Development, Bangkok, December 1996

Statistics

Working Group of Statistical Experts, ninth session, Bangkok, January-February 1996

Expert Group Meeting on Environmental and Resource Accounting, Bangkok, February 1996

Seminar on Environmental and Resource Accounting, Seoul, May 1996

Governing Board of the Statistical Institute for Asia and the Pacific: first session, Tokyo, March 1996; second session, Bangkok, November 1996

Third Regional Workshop for Core Members of National Working Groups on Gender Statistics, Bangkok, December 1996

Least developed, landlocked and island developing countries

Training Workshop on Industrial Project Preparation and Management for Selected Least Developed Countries, Kathmandu, May 1996

Expert Group Meeting on Enhancing Cooperation in Trade and Investment between Pacific Island Countries and Economies of East and South-East Asia in the 1990s, Port Vila, July 1996

National Workshops on Improving the Access of Women to Formal Credit and Financial Institutions: Kathmandu, July 1996; Vientiane, August 1996

Country-level Workshop on Training for Senior Officials on Transport Insurance, Vientiane, September 1996

Expert Group Meeting on Identification of the Institutional Constraints of Selected ESCAP Least Developed Countries in Implementing Macroeconomic Policies and Lessons from Selected East and South-East Asian Countries, Bangkok, October 1996

C. List of advisory services

Regional economic cooperation

Armenia, Bangladesh, Bhutan, Kazakstan, Myanmar and Nepal, on preparations for the Sixth Asia-Pacific International Trade Fair (ASPAT'96)

Cambodia, Lao People's Democratic Republic and Viet Nam, on export promotion

China: (i) to sensitize concerned Chinese authorities and representatives of selected economies in transition, Cambodia, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Mongolia and Viet Nam, to developments in the Uruguay Round and acquaint them with issues relating to membership of WTO; and (ii) to organize the Nanjing Forum '96 on technology cooperation for rural small and medium-scale industries, in cooperation with UNIDO and the Jiangsu Science and Technology Commission

Cook Islands: (i) to assist in the proposed Aitutaki Island water supply improvement project; (ii) to advise on implementation of water supply projects in the southern islands; and (iii) to advise on the planning of outer island development in coordination with government restructuring

Democratic People's Republic of Korea, regarding on-site assessment of requirements for trade and investment information, and appraisal of a potential trade information network for trade and investment

Fiji: (i) for discussions with officials of the Ministry of Commerce, Industry, Trade and Public Enterprises, on further ESCAP assistance in 1996; and (ii) on behalf of the Forum Secretariat, to carry out a study on the Melanesian Spearhead Group study on economic cooperation

Guam, to review the use made of the joint ESCAP/POC and South Pacific Commission 1994 study of the competitiveness of Guam, and to consider the case for further technical assistance

India: (i) to advise the Government on trade policy matters and on possible fall-out from the anti-dumping code finalized in the Uruguay Round, and particularly its possible impact on exports from India; (ii) to provide technical assistance to the Chinese study-tour team to India to familiarize the team with the customs tariff systems and customs administration and procedures under the Bangkok Agreement; (iii) to advise the Bureau of Industrial Promotion of Rajasthan on setting up trade and investment-related databases; (iv) to follow up on the first mission report with the National Information Centre in New Delhi; (v) to conduct training for trainers on the training modules on EDI for the Indian Institute of Foreign Trade and other human resources development organizations, as suggested by the Ministry of Commerce; and (vi) on a seminar/workshop on foreign investment promotion

Islamic Republic of Iran, on the introduction of a Quick Response System using EDI for supply chain management

Kazakstan: (i) to undertake a joint mission with officials of the Economic Commission for Europe, to formulate a joint programme for members of the Commonwealth of Independent States; and (ii) to conduct a subregional seminar on key issues in the implementation of economic reform policies in the Central Asian countries and the Russian Federation

Lao People's Democratic Republic, to conduct training on selected Uruguay Round issues for senior officials of concerned ministries

Palau: (i) detailed planning and preparation for technical assistance on sustainable development in Ngarchelong State; (ii) to review the state of development planning with a view to targeting technical assistance in priority areas; and (iii) to advise on draft legislation for foreign investment and offshore banking

Papua New Guinea: (i) to advise on trade policy issues; (ii) on behalf of the Forum Secretariat, to carry out a study on the Melanesian Spearhead Group study on economic cooperation; (iii) to sensitize policy makers to recent developments in international trade consequent upon completion of the Uruguay Round, to consider the implications for Papua New Guinea, and to discuss trade policies and strategies appropriate for the country in the post-Uruguay Round period; (iv) to consider modalities for increased trade and economic contacts between Papua New Guinea and Asia in the context of increasing regional cooperation in the ESCAP region and of the need for market and product diversification in the country, as well as to explain the role of trade efficiency in improving its trade performance; and (v) to conduct and participate as resource persons in the seminar on trade policies for Papua New Guinea

Philippines: (i) to advise officials of the Ministry of Commerce on the framework for integrating the introduction of EDI in the Philippines; (ii) to carry out a preliminary mission for discussions with various government agencies to ascertain the scope of services being sought by them; and (iii) to advise on matters relating to trade facilitation for specific service sectors

Republic of Korea: (i) to advise officials of the Korea EDIFACT Board on matters relating to inter-networking implementation among members of the Asia EDIFACT Board of the region as an input for a meeting of the Committee of the Board; and (ii) on policy for the promotion of small and medium-sized enterprises

Samoa: (i) to provide technical assistance to the Central Bank; (ii) on behalf of the Forum Secretariat, to carry out a study on the Melanesian Spearhead Group study on economic cooperation; and (iii) to act as a resource person at the SPREP planners meeting

Singapore, to advise the Government on a strategy for open EDI

Solomon Islands: (i) to carry out phases I and II of a study of staff development needs for the Fisheries Division of the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries and to complete a report on fisheries; (ii) to initiate ESCAP/POC technical assistance for the preparation of the Noro Town Plan by the Government and by western provincial government officials; (iii) to commence technical assistance on the economic and financial aspects of the Noro Town Plan and attend meetings of the Planning Committee; and (iv) to review progress on the Plan and revise the work programme for completion

Thailand: (i) to participate as a resource person in the seminar on the European Article Numbering Association (EAN) System for Garments and Textiles organized by the Thai Article Numbering Council; and (ii) to advise the Federation of Thai Industries on a project for supply chain management for the textile sector

Tonga, to advise on trade facilitation needs

Vanuatu: (i) to survey and investigate the Pankumu River crossing in South-East Malekula; (ii) to follow up implementation of the water supply project in Lakatoro and Norsup and train the local engineer; (iii) to advise on trade facilitation issues; (iv) to interview growers, retailers and others in the food processing industry for the Department of Industry Food

Processing Centre market study and examine supply and retail prices of their products; (v) to assist the Department of Rural Water Supply with the study of Pango village water supply; (vi) to provide the business skills component of the Department of Industry at the FAO training workshop on food preservation and processing; (vii) to chair the expert group meeting on enhancing cooperation in trade and investment between Pacific island countries and economies of East and South-East Asia in the 1990s; and (viii) to conduct a national training workshop to follow up the Fourth World Conference on Women, in order to promote implementation of the Platform for Action

Viet Nam: (i) to advise government officials on macroeconomic policy analysis, economic reform and macroeconomic modelling; (ii) to hold preliminary discussions with the authorities concerned and to finalize the project for a seminar on trade policy issues in 1997; (iii) to advise on methods of attracting foreign direct investment; and (iv) on quality management and promotion of exports

Environment and sustainable development

Bangladesh, to review mineral development policies and recommend future mineral development

Brunei Darussalam, to advise the Ministry of Development on draft general and sectoral guidelines on environmental impact assessment

Cambodia: (i) to advise on various aspects of river basin planning related to the Tonle Sap Lake and river basin; and (ii) to deliver a series of lectures on water resources development planning to staff of the Cambodian National Mekong Committee and other sectors

China: (i) to assist the Energy Research Institute of the State Planning Commission and the China National Environmental Protection Agency in preparing the country study on energy aspects of climate change; (ii) to advise the Northeast China Electric Power Group Corporation, Ministry of Power Industry, on low air pollution coal-fired power plant technology, and preparation of a paper on the technological options and comparative economics of air pollution control; and (iii) to demonstrate clean coal-fired power plant technology, and conduct an on-site workshop

India: (i) to the Ministry of Power, on assessing options for accelerating improvements in the efficiency of energy use and reducing the environmental effects associated with increasing electricity generation; (ii) to the Lal Bahadur Shastri Academy of Administration, on integration of environmental dimensions into the training curriculum of the civil service and development of case studies on sustainable development; (iii) to serve as coordinator in workshops in Udaipur, and follow-up meetings of the project on South Asian cooperation in energy and the environment; (iv) to participate in and present a paper at the International Conference on Energy; and (v) to the Pradeshiya Industrial and Investment Corporation Ltd., Lucknow, and the Central Pollution Control Board, Delhi, on the preparation of a format for a survey of polluting industries and training staff to conduct the survey, evaluation of the pollution abatement measures, additional environmental remedial measures for the polluting industries, and measures for strengthening the environmental management system of the Corporation

Islamic Republic of Iran, to formulate an outline for a workshop on mineral development policies in the 10 ECO member countries

Kazakstan, to assist the Ministry of Energy and Coal in the preparation of a proposal for improvements in energy efficiency and renewable energy, for possible submission to the Global Environment Facility

Lao People's Democratic Republic: (i) to the Ministry of Industry and Handicrafts, on government policies for the development of the mineral sector; and (ii) to advise and assist the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry on capacity-building and institutional strengthening in the irrigation sector, and to prepare a training programme

Maldives, to the Ministry of Planning, Human Resources and Environment, on marine environmental protection, environmental legislation and marine national park development

Mongolia: (i) to assist the Ministry for Protection of Nature and the Environment in formulating a new strategy and policy on water resources management in accordance with new water laws, in integrating environmental considerations into the analysis of energy options, and in preparing a project brief for consideration by the Global Environment Facility; and (ii) to advise the Ministry on the development of environmental impact assessment guidelines on hydroelectric and mineral development for the mining and energy sectors

Myanmar: (i) to the Ministry of Mines, on government policies for development of the mineral sector; (ii) to conduct a seminar and provide services on energy efficiency and conservation for the industrial sector; and (iii) to the National Commission for Environmental Affairs, to assist in refining the draft Myanmar Agenda 21

Nepal, to visit the Ganesh-Himal zinc lead project site, review the economic evaluation of the project and recommend a plan of action for its rehabilitation

Pakistan: (i) to advise the Ministry of Works, Environment and Urban Affairs on options for reducing the environmental impact of the rapidly increasing use of energy; (ii) to review the data and recommend a strategy for the development of mineral

resources and define and formulate projects for evaluation and development of mineral deposits; and (iii) to advise the Hydrocarbon Development Institute, Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Resources, on modifications to be made to the *Pakistan Energy Yearbook*, through the incorporation of a section on biomass energy

Philippines: (i) to advise on various aspects of planning, design and development of mini-hydroelectric projects and to deliver a series of lectures on mini-hydroelectric power to staff of the Mindanao office of the Department of Energy; (ii) to review and discuss the implementation process of a new legal framework for the mineral sector; (iii) to advise the Energy Planning and Monitoring Bureau of the Government on the formulation of a cost-effective environmental management and pollution control framework for energy resources development; and (iv) to assist the Department of Energy in updating the Energy Plan, 1996-2025

Republic of Korea, on the establishment of a master plan for water resources development of the Limjin river basin

Sri Lanka, to the Ministry of Industrial Development, on government policies for development of the mineral sector

Vanuatu, to review mineral development policy and current regulations for the formulation of a framework for attracting foreign direct investment, and sound environmental guidelines

Viet Nam: (i) to assist the National Center for Science and Technology in preparing a proposal on photovoltaic and other renewable energy sources for submission to funding agencies; and (ii) to review the institutional needs for implementation of the new mining law

Poverty alleviation through economic growth and social development

Bhutan: (i) to select the counterpart agencies for the ESCAP/FAO project on poverty alleviation through market-generated rural employment; and (ii) to conduct the first supervisory mission for the project

Brunei Darussalam: (i) to assist the Ministry of Culture, Youth and Sports in developing effective programmes for vulnerable groups, including the elderly, persons with disabilities and unemployed youth through identifying key social development strategies that can facilitate sustainable social integration; reviewing the efficacy of sectoral and intersectoral arrangements in the development of policies and programmes for the integration of vulnerable groups in development; and proposing ways and means of incorporating elements of self-help and participatory development; and (ii) to advise the Ministry on the feasibility of establishing a National Social Development Planning Management and Information System, to enable the Ministry to improve its planning and programming for vulnerable groups

Cambodia: (i) to assist in the development of the youth policy framework and the preparation of a national master plan for youth, at the request of the Ministry of Education, Youth Affairs and Sports; (ii) to provide technical assistance on the project document for the 1998 census; (iii) to advise the Government on the preparation of the socio-economic survey of Cambodia; and (iv) to the National Institute of Statistics, on carrying out analysis of data in the Demographic Survey

China: (i) on the promotion of non-handicapping environments for disabled and elderly persons in the Asian and Pacific region; and (ii) to assist the Asia-Pacific Meeting on Human Resources Development for Youth

Fiji: (i) to the local self-help organization of disabled persons, on implementation of the Asian and Pacific Decade of Disabled Persons, 1993-2002; (ii) to assist the Ministry of Youth, Employment Opportunities and Sports with its second workshop on the corporate plan: setting indicators; (iii) to present the regional planning report and follow-up, assist with the ESCAP workshop on management of self-help organizations for people with disabilities, and meet with officials from the Ministry; and (iv) to support the Ministry in incorporating its strategic plans in the annual programmes of activities

Guam, to review youth and social development activities

India, on implementation of the Agenda for Action for the Asian and Pacific Decade of Disabled Persons, 1993-2002

Indonesia, on cooperation between ESCAP and the International Union of Local Authorities (Asian and Pacific Section), particularly in the preparations for the Second Ministerial Conference on Urbanization

Islamic Republic of Iran: (i) to review social development issues arising from the Manila Agenda for Action and the Copenhagen Programme of Action on Social Development and their implications in relation to the country's social development strategy, goals and targets; (ii) to conduct a series of lectures on successful poverty alleviation and social assistance strategies in the ESCAP region with a view to communicating these experiences to an audience comprising the staff of governmental and non-governmental organizations and academics at national and provincial levels; and (iii) at the request of UNDP, to provide technical assistance to the National Project Team, the Ministry of Economic Affairs and Finance and other project authorities on poverty alleviation initiatives being taken in the country

Japan: (i) to the Japanese Association for Art and Culture of People with Disabilities, to promote awareness of the activities of people with disabilities; and (ii) to the Asia Crime Prevention Foundation, on the holding of the Fifth World Conference on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice, at Seoul

Kazakstan, on population issues related to the implementation of the Cairo Programme of Action and the Bali Declaration on Population and Sustainable Development

Kyrgyzstan, on population issues related to the implementation of the Cairo Programme of Action and the Bali Declaration on Population and Sustainable Development

Lao People's Democratic Republic, to identify counterpart agencies for the ESCAP/FAO project on poverty alleviation through market-generated rural employment which uses the "success-case-replication" methodology to enhance the income of the rural poor

Macau, to inform participants attending the HelpAge International Asia Regional Meeting about ESCAP activities relating to older persons and lifelong preparation for old age

Malaysia: (i) to the Department of Social Welfare, on the organization of the intercountry seminar on multisectoral collaborative action for people with disabilities; and (ii) to assist the Malaysian Institute of Economic Research in enhancing its role as a think-tank for the Government and the private sector in the field of poverty alleviation

Marshall Islands: (i) to review youth and social development activities; and (ii) to assist in setting up a youth database and the development of youth plan implementation procedures

Micronesia (Federated States of): (i) to review youth and social development activities; (ii) to participate in a national youth conference, review current national youth planning systems and make recommendations for national youth development planning; and (iii) to design and conduct four State-level strategic planning workshops

Mongolia, to organize a national workshop on implementation of the Agenda for Action on Social Development in the ESCAP Region

Myanmar, on development of modules for a training course for trainers on school-based drug demand reduction

Nauru, to review the Nauru youth programme, as discussed with the Government

Nepal: (i) to carry out a supervisory mission for the ESCAP/FAO project on poverty alleviation through market-generated rural employment; and (ii) to organize a national workshop on implementation of the Agenda for Action on Social Development in the ESCAP Region

New Zealand, to the Department of Corrections, at the Sixteenth Asian and Pacific Conference of Correctional Administrators, on the United Nations Standard Minimum Rules for the Treatment of Prisoners

Pakistan: (i) to the Ministry of Social Welfare and Special Education through a training programme aimed at providing senior personnel with skills, methodologies and techniques in the area of poverty alleviation and social development; and (ii) on alleviating poverty through local-level programmes

Palau, to work with the Bureau of Human Resources Development on planning and policy development

Papua New Guinea, to the local self-help organizations of disabled persons, on implementation of the Asian and Pacific Decade of Disabled Persons, 1993-2002

Philippines: (i) on the adverse impact on the poor of structural adjustment programmes and macroeconomic liberalization; (ii) on the ESCAP/FAO project on poverty alleviation through market-generated rural employment, to review progress on the field trials of the "success-case-replication" methodology in order to enhance the incomes of the rural poor; and (iii) on a publication on implementation of the Agenda for Action on Social Development in the ESCAP Region

Republic of Korea, to assist in the organization of the World Council of Churches Conference on the Differently Abled in Asia

Samoa: (i) to review youth issues and programmes as discussed with the Ministry of Youth, Sports and Culture; (ii) to review the planning systems of the Ministry and how these relate to national planning systems; (iii) to present the concepts of social impact analysis and participatory rural appraisal to participants in the Pacific regional planners meeting; and (iv) to initiate corporate planning for the Ministry

Solomon Islands, to the local self-help organizations of disabled persons, on implementation of the Asian and Pacific Decade of Disabled Persons, 1993-2002

Sri Lanka: (i) to carry out a supervisory mission for the ESCAP/FAO project on poverty alleviation through market-generated rural employment; and (ii) to assist the Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports and the Ministry of Rural Development in the development of a system for monitoring and evaluating the national poverty alleviation programme and a monitoring mechanism to assess the impact of various training and social mobilization programmes under the national programme

Thailand: (i) on the establishment of a new juvenile vocational training school; (ii) on the fourth regional training course on effective countermeasures against drug offences and advancement of criminal justice administration; (iii) on measures to promote the participation of correctional staff in a training

programme for foreign staff by the Government of Japan; (iv) on preparations for the first meeting of the Asia Crime Prevention Foundation on the role of criminal law in the protection of the environment; (v) study visit of a Thai delegation to the Correction Bureau, Ministry of Justice; (vi) to the Office of the Attorney-General, including other criminal justice agencies and institutions; (vii) to the Department of Corrections, Ministry of Interior, in connection with the visit of the Director General of the Correction Bureau, Ministry of Justice of Japan; (viii) to participants in the regional training course on community-based prevention of juvenile delinquency; (ix) to the Central Juvenile and Family Court, Ministry of Justice; (x) to the Department of Corrections, Ministry of Interior, on measures to deal with contemporary issues in correctional management; (xi) to review the role of the Department of Public Welfare self-help land settlement schemes in income generation, alleviation of poverty and efforts aimed at enhancing the quality of life of poor settlers; (xii) to assess the progress made in implementing the schemes in various provinces, and make recommendations on enhancing local-level skills in implementing the schemes; (xiii) to identify constraints in the way of expansion of the land settlement schemes into a broadbased national programme that can assist the country in meeting its goal of social development; (xiv) to participate in the United Nations System-wide Collaborative Action Plan in support of the Eighth National Plan of Thailand and to render advisory services through participation in the seminar on participatory approaches and resource mobilization strategies at the community level, and the meeting of the Thailand-United Nations Collaborative Action Plan (Thai-UNCAP) Theme Group on equity and poverty eradication; (xv) to provide advisory services to the Colombo Plan Staff College for Technical Education, Manila, through delivery of the keynote address to participants in the regional workshop on skill development for poverty alleviation through technical vocational institutions; (xvi) to conduct the first supervisory mission for the ESCAP/FAO project on poverty alleviation through market-generated rural employment; (xvii) to the Northern Narcotics Control Centre, on the development of modules for a training course for trainers on school-based drug demand reduction and HIV/AIDS prevention; and (xviii) to the Regional NGO Network for the Promotion of the Asian and Pacific Decade of Disabled Persons, 1993-2000

Tuvalu: (i) to review youth and social development activities; and (ii) to assist the Government in youth and sports planning

Uzbekistan, on population issues related to implementation of the Cairo Programme of Action and the Bali Declaration on Population and Sustainable Development

Vanuatu: (i) to advise the Government on the Foundation for Peoples of the South Pacific/Vanuatu corporate planning process; (ii) to assist the Foundation with regard to the localization process in Vanuatu; (iii) to act as resource person at the workshop on planning for sustainable development; and (iv) to assist the ombudsman in database design and training

Viet Nam: (i) to recommend strategies for improving the quality of population documentation and information activities networking at the national level; (ii) to review progress in the field testing of the "success-case-replication" methodology; (iii) to the Ministry of Agriculture, on planning and design of surveys of spontaneous migration to Ho Chi Minh City; and (iv) on population issues related to implementation of the Cairo Programme of Action and the Bali Declaration on Population and Sustainable Development

Transport and communications

Bangladesh, to the Bangladesh Shipping Corporation, on fleet development

Islamic Republic of Iran, on ports and shipping organizations

Kazakstan, jointly with the Economic Commission for Europe, to identify needs of the Commonwealth of Independent States, in regard to assistance in the transport sector from the two regional commissions

Kiribati: (i) to carry out an evaluation of Kiribati Shippers Services Ltd. (KSSL) and Kiribati Port Authority assets and to separate or demarcate port facilities and equipment and other assets from KSSL; (ii) to propose an organizational structure and staffing levels of the Port Authority and make recommendations; (iii) to prepare a corporate plan for the Port Authority; and (iv) to identify and formulate the development projects needed for the successful establishment of the Port Authority as a separate, self-financing entity

Lao People's Democratic Republic, on promotion of the Japanese travel market

Maldives: (i) to review the port and harbour engineering and coastal engineering projects undertaken by the Ministry of Construction and Public Works; (ii) to train local engineers on the basic concepts of port engineering; and (iii) to assist in the development of basic technical specifications for use in port and harbour engineering utilizing local technology

Marshall Islands, to provide assistance to the newly formed Marshall Islands Port Authority: (i) to hold meetings and discussions on the studies carried out to date and their implications, and on the functions and powers of the Authority and required resources; (ii) to identify priority areas for immediate

implementation and set attainable goals; (iii) to assist the Authority in devising a corporate plan; and (iv) to advise on the setting up of an appropriate accounting system

Solomon Islands, to assess the infrastructure situation in Noro as regards port development and associated requirements, as well as other developments requiring sea frontage for the Noro Town Land Planning Scheme

Tonga: (i) to assess the information required by the Ministry of Marine and Ports and other relevant government offices related to preparation of the Tonga seventh five-year development plan; (ii) to advise the Secretary for Marine and Ports on the appropriate format and organization of the sector plan for the Ministry; and (iii) to draft the marine transport sector plan chapter of the development plan

Tuvalu, to review government requests for technical assistance in the maritime and other sectors, including setting up a port management information system and PortCAM

Statistics

Azerbaijan, to assist in conducting a population census

Bangladesh, to assist in the UNFPA-funded project on a health and demographic survey and review the demographic data collection system

Cambodia: (i) to assist in analysis of the national knowledge, attitude and practices (KAP) survey on fertility and contraception; and (ii) to evaluate the project on the national population census

China, to lecture and assist in the data collection for the International Comparison Programme

Cook Islands, on preparation of the 1996 population and housing census

Democratic People's Republic of Korea, to assist in the area of population dynamics

Indonesia, on the usage of software for the reproductive health and family planning management information system

Islamic Republic of Iran, to assist in the preparation for the 1996 population and housing census and improvement of the vital statistics system

Kiribati, to serve as resource person at the national seminar on population and development

Lao People's Democratic Republic: (i) to assist in data collection in connection with the World Bank Information Approach to the International Comparison Project; (ii) to assist in the management of the information system of maternal and child health and birth-spacing services; and (iii) to advise on the national accounts system

Marshall Islands, on population statistics

Micronesia (Federated States of), on the preparation of census reports and to serve as resource person at the workshop on census analysis

Mongolia: (i) on preparation of the 1999 population census; (ii) on civil registration and information; and (iii) on the use of the integrated system for survey analysis (ISSA) software package in family planning surveys

Myanmar, to assist in the preparation of the fertility and reproductive health survey

Pakistan, on improving statistics on gender issues

Sri Lanka, to train officers of the Department of Census and Statistics on the 1993 System of National Accounts and to discuss implementation of the System

Thailand: (i) to advise the Office of Agricultural Economics, Ministry of Agriculture and Cooperatives, on conceptual aspects of national accounts; (ii) to examine the database and methodology used by that Office in estimating gross value added in the agriculture sector at the provincial level vis-à-vis that of the National Economic and Social Development Board; and (iii) to suggest other aggregate measures at the provincial level that are useful for meeting policy and planning requirements

Tonga, on preparation of the 1996 population and housing census

Viet Nam: (i) to advise on the development of information technology systems; (ii) to assist in preparation of the 1999 population and housing census; and (iii) to assist in designing surveys of spontaneous migration to Ho Chi Minh City

Least developed, landlocked and island developing countries

Advisory services provided by ESCAP/POC

Fiji: (i) to provide training in the operation of the High Temperature Forced Air Quarantine Facility at Nadi Airport; and (ii) to advise on a gold mine tax study

Kiribati, on a feasibility study for the establishment of Kiribati Port Authority

Niue: (i) on review of the coconut cream products industry; and (ii) to provide corporate planning assistance

Vanuatu: (i) to assist the Department of Foreign Affairs and Immigration in drafting the terms and conditions of service for Vanuatu personnel employed outside the country; and (ii) to assist the Department of Industry, Trade and Commerce in setting up a structural proposal for the Foreign Investment Board of Vanuatu

Annex VI

TERMS OF REFERENCE OF THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COMMISSION FOR ASIA AND THE PACIFIC

As adopted by the Economic and Social Council at its fourth session, amended by the Council at subsequent sessions, and revised in consequence of various General Assembly resolutions.

The Economic and Social Council,

Having considered General Assembly resolution 46(I) of 11 December 1946, in which the General Assembly "recommends that, in order to give effective aid to the countries devastated by war, the Economic and Social Council, at its next session, give prompt and favourable consideration to the establishment of ... an Economic Commission for Asia and the Far East",

Having noted the report of the Working Group for Asia and the Far East of the Temporary Sub-Commission on Economic Reconstruction of Devastated Areas,

Establishes an Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific with terms of reference as follows:

1. The Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific, acting within the framework of the policies of the United Nations and subject to the general supervision of the Council, shall, provided that the Commission takes no action in respect of any country without the agreement of the Government of that country:

(a) Initiate and participate in measures for facilitating concerted action for the economic reconstruction and development of Asia and the Pacific, for raising the level of economic activity in Asia and the Pacific and for maintaining and strengthening the economic relations of these areas both among themselves and with other countries of the world;

(b) Make or sponsor such investigations and studies of economic and technological problems and developments within territories of Asia and the Pacific as the Commission deems appropriate;

(c) Undertake or sponsor the collection, evaluation and dissemination of such economic, technological and statistical information as the Commission deems appropriate;

(d) Perform such advisory services, within the available resources of its secretariat, as the countries of the region may desire, provided that such services do not overlap with those rendered by the specialized agencies or the relevant United Nations bodies;

(e) Assist the Economic and Social Council, at its request, in discharging its functions within the region in connection with any economic problems, including problems in the field of technical assistance;

(f) In carrying out the above functions, deal, as appropriate, with the social aspects of economic development and the interrelationship of the economic and social factors.

2. The territories of Asia and the Pacific referred to in paragraph 1 shall include Afghanistan, American Samoa, Armenia, Australia, Azerbaijan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, Brunei Darussalam, Cambodia, China, Cook Islands, Fiji, French Polynesia, Guam, Hong Kong, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Japan, Kazakstan, Kiribati, Korea, Kyrgyzstan, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Macau, Malaysia, Maldives, Marshall Islands, Micronesia (Federated States of), Mongolia, Myanmar, Nauru, Nepal, New Caledonia, New Zealand, Niue, Northern Mariana Islands, Pakistan, Palau, Papua New Guinea, Philippines, Russian Federation, Samoa, Singapore, Solomon Islands, Sri Lanka, Tajikistan, Thailand, Tonga, Turkey, Turkmenistan, Tuvalu, Uzbekistan, Vanuatu and Viet Nam.

3. The members of the Commission shall consist of Afghanistan, Armenia, Australia, Azerbaijan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, Brunei Darussalam, Cambodia, China, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Fiji, France, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Japan, Kazakstan, Kiribati, Kyrgyzstan, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Malaysia, Maldives, Marshall Islands, Micronesia (Federated States of), Mongolia, Myanmar, Nauru, Nepal, Netherlands, New Zealand, Pakistan, Palau, Papua New Guinea, Philippines, Republic of Korea, Russian Federation, Samoa, Singapore, Solomon Islands, Sri Lanka, Tajikistan, Thailand, Tonga, Turkey, Turkmenistan, Tuvalu, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America, Uzbekistan, Vanuatu and Viet Nam, provided that any State in the area which may hereafter become a Member of the United Nations shall be thereupon admitted as a member of the Commission.

4. The associate members shall include American Samoa, Cook Islands, French Polynesia, Guam, Hong Kong, Macau, New Caledonia, Niue and Northern Mariana Islands.

5. Any territory, part or group of territories within the geographical scope of the Commission as defined in paragraph 2 may, on presentation of its application to the Commission by the member responsible for the international relations of such territory, part or group of territories, be admitted by the Commission as an associate member of the Commission. If it has become responsible for its own international relations, such territory, part or group of territories may be admitted as an associate member of the Commission on itself presenting its application to the Commission.

6. Representatives of associate members shall be entitled to participate without vote in all meetings of the Commission, whether sitting as Commission or as Committee of the Whole.

7. Representatives of associate members shall be eligible to be appointed as members of any committee, or other subordinate body, which may be set up by the Commission and shall be eligible to vote and hold office in such body.

8. The Commission is empowered to make recommendations on any matters within its competence directly to the Governments of members or associate members concerned, Governments admitted in consultative capacity, and the specialized agencies concerned. The Commission shall submit for the Council's prior consideration any of its proposals of activities that would have important effects on the economy of the world as a whole.

9. The Commission shall invite any Member of the United Nations not a member of the Commission to participate in a consultative capacity in its consideration of any matter of particular concern to that non-member.

10. The Commission shall invite representatives of specialized agencies and may invite representatives of any intergovernmental organization to participate in a consultative capacity in its consideration of any matter of particular concern to that agency or organization, following the practice of the Economic and Social Council.

11. The Commission shall make arrangements for consultation with non-governmental organizations which have been granted consultative status by the Economic and Social Council, in accordance with the principles approved by the Council for this purpose and contained in Council resolution 1296 (XLIV).

12. The Commission shall take measures to ensure that the necessary liaison is maintained with other organs of the United Nations and with the specialized agencies. The Commission shall establish appropriate liaison and cooperation with other regional commissions in accordance with the resolutions and directives of the Economic and Social Council and the General Assembly.

13. The Commission may, after discussion with any specialized agency functioning in the same general field, and with the approval of the Council, establish such subsidiary bodies as it deems appropriate, for facilitating the carrying out of its responsibilities.

14. The Commission shall adopt its own rules of procedure, including the method of selecting its Chairperson.

15. The Commission shall submit to the Council a full report on its activities and plans, including those of any subsidiary bodies, once a year.

16. The administrative budget of the Commission shall be financed from the funds of the United Nations.

17. The Secretary-General of the United Nations shall appoint the staff of the Commission, which shall form part of the Secretariat of the United Nations.

18. The headquarters of the Commission shall be located at Bangkok, Thailand.

19. The Council shall, from time to time, make special reviews of the work of the Commission.

Annex VII

RULES OF PROCEDURE OF THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COMMISSION FOR ASIA AND THE PACIFIC

As drawn up at the first session, confirmed and adopted at the second session, and amended at subsequent sessions of the Commission.

Chapter I

SESSIONS

Rule 1

The following principles shall apply as regards date and place for the sessions of the Commission:

(a) The Commission shall at each session recommend the date and place for its next session, subject to the approval of the Council and in consultation with the Secretary-General. Sessions of the Commission shall also be held within forty-five days of the communication to the Executive Secretary of a request to that effect by the Economic and Social Council, and, in that case, the Secretary-General shall establish the place of such sessions in consultation with the Chairman of the Commission;

(b) In special cases the date and place of the session may be altered by the Secretary-General in consultation with the Chairman of the Commission and the Council's Interim Committee on Programme of Conferences. At the request of the majority of the members of the Commission, the Secretary-General, in consultation with the Chairman of the Commission and the Council's Interim Committee on Programme of Conferences, may also alter the date and place of the session;

(c) Sessions shall ordinarily be held at the office of the United Nations in Asia and the Pacific. The Commission may recommend holding a particular session elsewhere.

Rule 2

The Executive Secretary shall, at least forty-two days before the commencement of a session, distribute a notice of the opening date of the session, together with three copies of the provisional agenda and of the basic documents relating to each item appearing on the provisional agenda. Distribution shall be similar to that under rule 49.

Rule 3

The Commission shall invite any Member of the United Nations not a member of the Commission to participate in a consultative capacity in its consideration of any matter of particular concern to that Member.

Chapter II

AGENDA

Rule 4

The provisional agenda for each session shall be drawn up by the Executive Secretary in consultation with the Chairman.

Rule 5

The provisional agenda for any session shall include:

(a) Items arising from previous sessions of the Commission;

(b) Items proposed by the Economic and Social Council;

(c) Items proposed by any member or associate member of the Commission;

(d) Items proposed by a specialized agency in accordance with the agreements of relationship concluded between the United Nations and such agencies;

(e) Items proposed by non-governmental organizations in general consultative status, subject to the provisions of rule 6;

(f) Any other items which the Chairman or the Executive Secretary sees fit to include.

Rule 6

Non-governmental organizations in general consultative status may propose items on matters within their competence for the provisional agenda of the Commission, subject to the following conditions:

(a) An organization which intends to propose such an item shall inform the Executive Secretary at least sixty-three days before the commencement of the session, and before formally proposing an item shall give due consideration to any comments he may make;

(b) The proposal shall be formally submitted with the relevant basic documentation not less than forty-nine days before the commencement of the session. The item shall be included in the agenda of the Commission if it is adopted by a two-thirds majority of those present and voting.

Rule 7

The first item upon the provisional agenda for each session shall be the adoption of the agenda.

Rule 8

The Commission may amend the agenda at any time.

Chapter III

REPRESENTATION AND CREDENTIALS

Rule 9

Each member shall be represented on the Commission by an accredited representative.

Rule 10

A representative may be accompanied to the sessions of the Commission by alternate representatives and advisers and, when absent, he may be replaced by an alternate representative.

Rule 11

The credentials of each representative appointed to the Commission, together with a designation of alternate representatives, shall be submitted to the Executive Secretary without delay.

Rule 12

The Chairman and the two Vice-Chairmen shall examine the credentials and report upon them to the Commission.

Chapter IV

OFFICERS

Rule 13

The Commission shall, at its first meeting of each year, elect from among its representatives a Chairman and two Vice-Chairmen, designated as First and Second Vice-Chairmen, who shall hold office until their successors are elected. They shall be eligible for re-election.

Rule 14

If the Chairman is absent from a meeting, or any part thereof, the Vice-Chairman designated by the Chairman shall preside.

Rule 15

If the Chairman ceases to represent a member of the Commission, or is so incapacitated that he can no longer hold office, the First Vice-Chairman shall become Chairman for the unexpired portion of the term. If the First Vice-Chairman also ceases to represent a member of the Commission, or is so incapacitated that he can no longer hold office, the Second Vice-Chairman shall become Chairman for the unexpired portion of the term.

Rule 16

The Vice-Chairman acting as Chairman shall have the same powers and duties as the Chairman.

Rule 17

The Chairman, or the Vice-Chairman acting as Chairman, shall participate in the meetings of the Commission as such, and not as the representative of the member by whom he was accredited. The Commission shall admit an alternate representative to represent that member in the meetings of the Commission and to exercise its right to vote.

Chapter V

SECRETARIAT

Rule 18

The Executive Secretary shall act in that capacity at all meetings of the Commission and of its subcommissions, other subsidiary bodies and committees. He may appoint another member of the staff to take his place at any meeting.

Rule 19

The Executive Secretary or his representative may at any meeting make either oral or written statements concerning any question under consideration.

Rule 20

The Executive Secretary shall direct the staff provided by the Secretary-General and required by the Commission, its subcommissions, and any other subsidiary bodies and committees.

Rule 21

The Executive Secretary shall be responsible for the necessary arrangements being made for meetings.

Rule 22

The Executive Secretary in carrying out his functions shall act on behalf of the Secretary-General.

Rule 23

Before new proposals which involve expenditure from United Nations funds are approved by the

Commission, the Executive Secretary shall prepare and circulate to members an estimate of that part of the cost involved in the proposals which could not be met out of the resources available to the secretariat. It shall be the duty of the Chairman to draw the attention of members to this estimate, and invite discussion on it before the proposals are approved.

Chapter VI

CONDUCT OF BUSINESS

Rule 24

A majority of the members of the Commission shall constitute a quorum.

Rule 25

In addition to exercising the powers conferred upon him elsewhere by these rules, the Chairman shall declare the opening and closing of each meeting of the Commission, shall direct the discussion, ensure the observance of these rules, and shall accord the right to speak, put questions to the vote, and announce decisions. The Chairman may also call a speaker to order if his remarks are not relevant to the subject under discussion.

Rule 26

During the discussion of any matter, a representative may raise a point of order. In this case, the Chairman shall immediately state his ruling. If it is challenged, the Chairman shall forthwith submit his ruling to the Commission for decision, and it shall stand unless overruled.

Rule 27

During the discussion of any matter, a representative may move the adjournment of the debate. Any such motion shall have priority. In addition to the proposer of the motion, one representative shall be allowed to speak in favour of, and one representative against, the motion.

Rule 28

A representative may at any time move the closure of the debate whether or not any other representative has signified his wish to speak. Not more than two representatives may be granted permission to speak against the closure.

Rule 29

The Chairman shall take the sense of the Commission on a motion for closure. If the Commission is in favour of the closure, the Chairman shall declare the debate closed.

Rule 30

The Commission may limit the time allowed to each speaker.

Rule 31

Draft resolutions, and substantial amendments or motions, shall be introduced in writing and handed to the Executive Secretary, who shall circulate copies to the representatives at least twenty-four hours before they are discussed and voted upon, unless the Commission decides otherwise.

Rule 32

Upon the request of any member, any motion and amendment thereto made by any speaker shall be given to the Chairman in writing and shall be read by him before any further speaker is called upon and also immediately before a vote is taken on such motion or amendment. The Chairman may direct that any motion or amendment be circulated to the members present before a vote is taken.

This rule shall not apply to formal motions such as one for closure or adjournment.

Rule 33

Principal motions and resolutions shall be put to the vote in the order of their submission unless the Commission decides otherwise.

Rule 34

When an amendment revises, adds to or deletes from a proposal, the amendment shall be put to the vote first, and, if it is adopted, the amended proposal shall then be put to the vote.

Rule 35

If two or more amendments are moved to a proposal, the Commission shall vote first on the amendment furthest removed in substance from the original proposal; then, if necessary, on the amendment next furthest removed; and so on, until all the amendments have been put to the vote.

Rule 36

The Commission may, at the request of a representative, decide to put a motion or resolution to the vote in parts. If this is done, the text resulting from the series of votes shall be put to the vote as a whole.

Chapter VII

VOTING

Rule 37

Each member of the Commission shall have one vote.

Rule 38

Except for the provision of rule 6*(b)*, decisions of the Commission shall be made by a majority of the members present and voting.

Rule 39

The Commission shall take no action in respect of any country without the agreement of the Government of that country.

Rule 40

The Commission shall normally vote by a show of hands. If any representative requests a roll-call, a roll-call shall be taken in the English alphabetical order of the names of the members.

Rule 41

All elections shall be decided by secret ballot.

Rule 42

If a vote is equally divided upon matters other than elections, a second vote shall be taken at the next meeting. If this vote also results in equality, the proposal shall be regarded as rejected.

Rule 43

After the voting has commenced, no representative shall interrupt voting except on a point of order in connection with the actual conduct of the voting. Brief statements by members consisting solely of explanations of their votes may be permitted by the Chairman, if he deems it necessary, before the voting has commenced or after the voting has been completed.

Chapter VIII

LANGUAGES

Rule 44

Chinese, English, French and Russian shall be the working languages of the Commission.

Rule 45

Speeches made in one of the working languages shall be interpreted into the other working languages.

Chapter IX

RECORDS

Rule 46

Summary records of the meetings of the Commission shall be kept by the secretariat. They shall be sent as soon as possible to the representatives of members and to the representatives of any other government agency or organization which participated in the meeting concerned. Such representatives shall inform the secretariat, not later than seventy-two hours after the circulation of any summary record, of any changes they wish to have made. Any disagreement concerning such changes shall be referred to the Chairman, whose decision shall be final.

Rule 47

The corrected version of the summary records of public meetings shall be distributed as soon as possible in accordance with the usual practice of the United Nations. This shall include distribution to non-governmental organizations in general and special consultative status and those on the Roster, and on appropriate occasions to consultative members.

Rule 48

The corrected version of the summary records of private meetings shall be distributed as soon as possible to the members of the Commission, to any consultative member participating in the meeting concerned, and to the specialized agencies. They shall be distributed to all the Members of the United Nations if and when the Commission so decides.

Rule 49

As soon as possible, the text of all reports, resolutions, recommendations and other formal decisions made by the Commission, its subcommissions or other subsidiary bodies and its committees shall be communicated to the members of the Commission, to the consultative members concerned, to all other Members of the United Nations, to the specialized agencies, and to the non-governmental organizations in general and special consultative status and those on the Roster.

Chapter X

PUBLICITY OF MEETINGS

Rule 50

The meetings of the Commission shall ordinarily be held in public. The Commission may decide that a particular meeting or meetings shall be held in private.

Chapter XI

CONSULTATIONS WITH SPECIALIZED AGENCIES AND THE INTERNATIONAL ATOMIC ENERGY AGENCY

Rule 51

1. Where an item proposed for the provisional agenda for a session contains a proposal for new activities to be undertaken by the United Nations relating to matters which are of direct concern to one or

more specialized agencies or the International Atomic Energy Agency, the Executive Secretary shall enter into consultation with the agency or agencies concerned and report to the Commission on the means of achieving coordinated use of the resources of the respective agencies.

2. Where a proposal put forward in the course of a meeting for new activities to be undertaken by the United Nations relates to matters which are of direct concern to one or more specialized agencies or the International Atomic Energy Agency, the Executive Secretary shall, after such consultation as may be possible with the representatives at the meeting of the other agency or agencies concerned, draw the attention of the meeting to these implications of the proposal.

3. Before deciding on proposals referred to above, the Commission shall satisfy itself that adequate consultations have taken place with the agencies concerned.

Chapter XII

RELATIONS WITH NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS

Rule 52

Non-governmental organizations in general and special consultative status may designate authorized representatives to sit as observers at public meetings of the Commission. Organizations on the Roster may have representatives present at such meetings which are concerned with matters within their field of competence.

Rule 53

Written statements relevant to the work of the Commission or its subsidiary bodies may be submitted by organizations in general and special consultative status on subjects for which these organizations have a special competence. Such statements shall be circulated by the Executive Secretary to the members and associate members of the Commission except those statements which have become obsolete - e.g. those dealing with matters already disposed of, and those which have already been circulated in some other form to members and associate members of the Commission or its subsidiary bodies.

Rule 54

The following conditions shall be observed regarding the submission and circulation of such written statements:

(a) The written statement shall be submitted in one of the official languages;

(b) It shall be submitted in sufficient time for appropriate consultation to take place between the Executive Secretary and the organization before circulation;

(c) The organization shall give due consideration to any comments which the Executive Secretary may make in the course of such consultation before transmitting the statement in final form;

(d) A written statement submitted by an organization in general consultative status will be circulated in full if it does not exceed 2,000 words. Where a statement is in excess of 2,000 words, the organization shall submit a summary, which will be circulated, or shall supply sufficient copies of the full text in the working languages for distribution. A statement will also be circulated in full, however, upon the specific request of the Commission or of one of its subsidiary bodies;

(e) A written statement submitted by an organization in special consultative status will be circulated in full if it does not exceed 1,500 words. Where a statement is in excess of 1,500 words, the organization shall submit a summary, which will be circulated, or shall supply sufficient copies of the full text in the working languages for distribution. A statement will also be circulated in full, however, upon the specific request of the Commission or other subsidiary bodies;

(f) The Executive Secretary in consultation with the Chairman or the Commission itself may invite organizations on the Roster to submit written statements. The provisions of paragraphs *(a)*, *(b)*, *(c)* and *(e)* above shall apply to such statements;

(g) A written statement or summary, as the case may be, will be circulated by the Executive Secretary in the working languages and, upon the request of a member or associate member of the Commission, in any of the official languages.

Rule 55

(a) The Commission and its subsidiary bodies may consult with organizations in general or special consultative status either directly or through a committee or committees established for the purpose. In all cases, such consultations may be arranged on the request of the organization;

(b) On the recommendation of the Executive Secretary and at the request of the Commission or one of its subsidiary bodies, organizations on the Roster may also be heard by the Commission or its subsidiary bodies.

Rule 56

Subject to rule 23 the Commission may recommend that a non-governmental organization which has special competence in a particular field should undertake specific studies or investigations or prepare specific papers for the Commission. The limitations of rule 54*(d)* and *(e)* shall not apply in this case.

Chapter XIII

SUBCOMMISSIONS, OTHER SUBSIDIARY BODIES AND COMMITTEES

Rule 57

After discussion with any specialized agency functioning in the same field, and with the approval of the Economic and Social Council, the Commission may establish such continually acting subcommissions or other subsidiary bodies as it deems necessary for the performance of its functions and shall define the powers and composition of each of them. Such autonomy as may be necessary for the effective discharge of the technical responsibilities laid upon them may be delegated to them.

Rule 58

The Commission may establish such committees and subcommittees as it deems necessary to assist it in carrying out its tasks.

Rule 59

Subcommissions or other subsidiary bodies and committees, subcommittees and working parties shall adopt their own rules of procedure unless otherwise decided by the Commission.

Chapter XIV

REPORTS

Rule 60

The Commission shall, once a year, submit to the Economic and Social Council a full report on its activities and plans, including those of any subsidiary bodies.

Chapter XV

AMENDMENTS AND SUSPENSIONS

Rule 61

Any of these rules of procedure may be amended or suspended by the Commission, provided that the proposed amendments or suspensions do not attempt to set aside the terms of reference laid down by the Economic and Social Council.

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